



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 21, 2015

Belle Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

This purpose of this letter is twofold: first, to notify the Commission on Colleges of The University of Texas at Arlington's intent to offer a program repackaged as an MS in Economic Data Analytics from an MA in Economics; and second, to seek approval for the teach-out plan devised for students completing the related MA in Economics.

The University of Texas at Arlington intends to offer the MS in Economic Data Analytics in the fall 2015. The MS in Economic Data Analytics is focused, responds to new job market demands, and reflects the evolution of economics as a discipline. The program requires a total of 30 SCH, comprised of 24 hours of required courses and 6 hours of prescribed electives. The curriculum is a repackaging of pre-existing courses and a single new course. Students currently pursuing the MA in Economics will be permitted to pursue the M.S. in Economic Data Analytics if they choose to do so.

For students that choose to pursue completion of the MA in Economics, a teach-out plan has been devised and communicated to the students. Students received emails related to the information and all students received personal counseling about the change. As expected, many students are interested in successfully moving to the newly repackaged MS in Economic Data Analytics. In addition, students may continue in the MA in Economics. That degree option will remain available until August 2019, a date approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), so as to accommodate any student who entered under the 2014-2015 catalog. All students will be able to complete their degrees on schedule. The curriculum will continue to be offered regularly as it will be required for both degrees, with a difference of only one course. The MA Economics degree option will not accept new students in fall 2015. Further, students will not incur any additional costs due to the closure of the program.

There will be no impact on students and faculty related to the closing of the M.A. in Economics. Faculty will continue to teach their courses as they are applicable to both the M.A. in Economics and the M.S. in Economic Data Analytics.

Please let us know if additional information is required to grant approval of our teach-out plan.

Sincerely,

Vistasp M. Karbhari
President

c: Steven Sheely, SACSCOC Vice President
Loraine Phillips, SACSCOC Liaison, The University of Texas at Arlington
Rachel Croson, Dean, College of Business
Ronald Eisenbaumer, Provost