

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Regarding Admission

- **Is there a departmental application fee?**
No, currently the department does not require an application fee. However, international students must pay a fee of \$75 to apply to the University of Houston. Please note that this fee cannot be waived by the department.
- **I work, could I pursue a graduate degree part-time?**
While permission to enroll part-time may be granted in very unusual circumstances, the Department strongly discourages part-time enrollment. The Department offers no night classes, so you must be able to take classes during the day. Graduate classes generally are offered between 9am and 4pm (with most classes starting between 10am and 1pm).
- **I've been out of school for a long time and can't find any of my professors to write my letters of recommendation. Can I ask my boss for a letter?**
While letters of recommendation from those who are familiar with your academic performance are preferable, letters from other referees can be accepted. The purpose of the letters of recommendation, as is the case with all required application materials, is to make the best case you possibly can for your admission to graduate studies in Economics. Academic referees obviously will help that cause more than other types because they will address your scholastic abilities.
- **Is a writing sample necessary?**
The statement of purpose, required of all applicants to the graduate program, serves the same purpose of the writing sample. It should demonstrate your ability to create and communicate in a concise format.
- **How is the grade point average (GPA) computed?**
The undergraduate GPA is based on the last 60 hours of coursework in a person's undergraduate degree program. A 4.00 scale (A-4.00) is used. The cumulative GPA is used for all graduate coursework.
- **I haven't yet taken the GRE, how can I get information?**
For information regarding graduate level testing at the University of Houston please call Counseling and Testing at (713) 743-5444.
- **I took the GRE but didn't have the scores sent to the University of Houston.**
Please contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the company which administers the GRE, at (609) 771-7670 and ask to have scores sent to the University of Houston, Central Campus. It is not necessary to specify a department because official scores are posted to the central administration mainframe and can be accessed by any department on campus.
- **I took the GRE twice and did much better the second time. Which scores will be used by the department?**
Generally, the Graduate Committee will have access to all scores sent to the University of Houston. Usually, though, the Committee will emphasize the highest set of scores.
- **What kind of financial aid is available?**
The Department of Economics offers aid in the form of teaching and/or research assistantships. These awards are extremely competitive. As a stipulation of the award, students must be enrolled full-time (9 hours) and be available to work 20 hours per week for the department. Those receiving departmental assistantships will be evaluated every semester to determine whether departmental aid will continue. No departmental aid can be given to those beyond their 5th year of doctoral studies, regardless of how long a person has received departmental aid. Information regarding other forms of financial aid (scholarships, grants, loans, fellowships, employment, etc.) can be obtained from the Office of Scholarships and

Financial Aid at (713) 743-1010.

- **Where should I send my application materials?** All application materials should be sent to the Office of Admissions, which will forward the materials to the department. Recommendation letters may be sent directly to the department.