



RICE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

MASTER of ENERGY ECONOMICS PROGRAM

HANDBOOK 2026-2027

[LAST UPDATE: July 14, 2026]

Name

Signature

Date

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Introduction

The following departmental rules and regulations govern the Master of Energy Economics (MEECON) program. In addition to being in agreement with the regulation stated in this departmental handbook, students must also be in agreement with the [General Announcements](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#).

In case there is conflicting information, university-wide regulations take precedence over department-wide regulations, which take precedence over regulations specific to MEECON.

When in doubt, students should seek help first at the departmental level (Program Coordinator, Co-Directors for MEECON, or Department Chair) and then at the central administration level (Dean of Social Sciences, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies).

The MEECON program is designed to enable students to complete all requirements within one year.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all scheduled activities for all of the classes for which they are registered during the entire course of the academic semester for which they are enrolled. Students with a legitimate reason to be absent from a class must specifically request permission from the professor in charge or explain at the next available opportunity why an unforeseen event prevented them from attending. The academic calendar indicates normal class days, recesses, and holidays. Instructors, however, may schedule required activities on other days, including recesses, holidays, and weekends, if required by programmatic needs, such as guest lectures or field trips. Such requirements must be clearly stated in the online course description available at registration and on the syllabus, and instructors should try to provide compensatory time off for students.

Appropriate Use of Technology

Rice University provides a variety of computing and network resources to the Rice community. These resources are to be used in a manner consistent with federal, state and local laws and regulations including U. S. copyright law, and, if travel is involved, the laws of the relevant nation or state (including U.S. export control requirements).

Use of computing, network and digital resources also shall not violate Rice University policies and specialized policies and guidelines created by the Office of Information Technology (OIT), and any legal or contractual requirements of the University (including license agreements and terms of service). Use of all University information technology must be consistent with the University's research, educational and outreach mission. Rice values freedom of expression, the diversity of values and perspectives and the protection of sensitive University and personal data

for all members of the Rice University community. Use of University networks and systems unrelated to the University's mission must be limited in time and scope and must not interfere with University functions or operations.

In addition, Rice users are responsible for using Rice-managed technology and Rice data in a responsible manner. Any communication, which is defamatory, harassing, interferes with other uses of University resources or constitutes an improper disclosure of protected University or sensitive personal data is prohibited. Individuals should not use University technological resources for partisan political purposes.

Further details are available in Rice University Policy No. 832.

The Honor System

The Honor System is one of the oldest traditions at Rice. Adopted by a vote of the student body in 1916, the system requires each Rice student to help ensure the validity of all examinations and assignments by adhering to a strict code of academic integrity. The Honor System reflects one of our strongest shared community values. It provides benefits such as take-home and unproctored exams. The Honor System also elevates our common experience by placing academic honesty at the center of our curriculum and by asking each of us to live by our honor code on a daily and continuing basis. The Honor System expresses our belief that the integrity of each individual is vital to the integrity of our entire community. In the conclusion to his book "The Honor Code," Professor Anthony Appiah states, "It takes a sense of honor to feel implicated by the acts of others." It is that sense of honor which is deeply embedded in the Rice community, which is expressed by our Honor Code, and which is lived by every individual Rice student, staff and faculty member.

The Honor System is administered by the student Honor Council, whose members are elected annually by the student body. Students agree to report any suspected violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Council, which is responsible for investigating reported violations and recommending penalties where warranted. As a reminder of their commitment, students write and sign the following pledge on all work covered by the Honor Code: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received any aid on this (exam, paper, project, assignment)."

Program Requirements

Summary

Candidates for the Master of Energy Economics degree must:

1. Complete the approved program of at least 11 courses. Courses in other departments will not count towards your degree.

2. Perform satisfactorily in all classes. Must maintain at least a 2.67 cumulative GPA.
3. Attend as many events as possible on campus and at the Baker Institute in order to broaden your network resources.

Timetable

Sample progression – Timeline to degree

Check the academic calendar for deadlines

Semester	Coursework	Suggested Student Focus
Fall <i>15 Weeks</i>	ECON 601 ECON 602 ECON 603 ECON 606	* Attend all extra curricular networking sessions to prepare for internship application process *Register for Spring classes
Spring <i>15 Weeks</i>	ECON 604 ECON 610 ECON 6XX ECON 6XX	*Begin applying for summer internships *Register for Summer classes
Summer I <i>7 Weeks</i>	ECON 6XX ECON 6XX ECON 6XX ECON 6XX	*Apply for degree
Summer II <i>7 Weeks</i>	ECON 699	*Submit a letter from the internship that you completed your 7-week assignment.

* Information about proper work authorization for internship period can be found at the [Office of International Students and Scholars](#).

Academic Requirements for MEECON

Core courses and Academic Requirements:

1. ECON 601, ECON 602, ECON 603, and ECON 606 courses are mandatory for the first semester.
2. ECON 604 and ECON 610 courses are mandatory for the second semester.
3. To continue in the MEECON program, a student needs a grade point average of no less than 2.67 (that is, an average grade of B-) by the end of the first semester.
4. You are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.

Internship/Practicum:

Successful participation in the MEECON practicum OR an outside internship is required in the Summer II Session for completion of the MEECON professional master's degree. The projects are meant to provide prospective employers with an opportunity to evaluate new talent effectively. Both are registered as ECON 699, which counts as 4 credit hours.

Approval of an internship must be from Dr. Ken Medlock, Co-Director of the program. Most students complete an approved internship with an approved employer, which could include a new employer with whom the student has accepted a full-time employment offer. Some students can also satisfy the requirement by developing an approved, special project with a continuing previous employer. The internship is meant to last 7 weeks and should be directly related to your core area of study in the MEECON degree program. By the end of the summer II session each intern shall submit a letter from the internship supervisor indicating satisfactory completion of, or participation in an internship throughout the summer II session. It is at the discretion of the intern supervisor and the student intern whether an internship extends beyond the required 7-week period.

For students who do not secure a suitable internship, we also offer the practicum to provide practical experience relevant to the degree. In this case, you will work with a specified professor to design a project that is tailored to your interests and career aspirations. The work must be rooted in the foundational principles taught throughout the MEECON program, leverage appropriate data and techniques, and demonstrate a mastery of the topics applied to the practicum problem statement.

Seminars/Events:

Many different special lectures, conferences and workshops will be offered through the Baker Institute and the Economics Department. Although some of them will be mandatory, others will not be, but we nevertheless highly encourage you to attend. Remember to dress appropriately for every event and/or occasion.

Advising

The co-directors of the Master of Energy Economics program are the official advisors to MEECON graduate students and are available to consult with students about progress and help them select courses.

Probationary Status

1. A student is considered to be on probationary status whenever the GPA for a semester falls below 2.67. Students are permitted only one semester of probationary status. Automatic dismissal by the Graduate Office occurs whenever a student is put on probation a second time.
2. Students with exceptional circumstances may petition the Dean of Social Sciences for a waiver of probationary status.

Petitions, Appeals, Grievances and Problem Resolutions

Students are encouraged to download and read the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies' guidelines for dismissal, petitions, appeals, grievances and problem resolution that can be obtained from the web site:

<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/> - text

In accordance with these guidelines, it is appropriate for petitions, appeals, grievances and problems to be handled in the first instance by the co-directors of the MEECON program. They will conduct an investigation of the circumstances and reach a decision regarding the case. Any decision they make can be appealed to the Dean of Social Sciences. The Dean will look at every case after viewing a written report from the co-directors of the MEECON program and any written report the student wants to provide. The written report from the co-directors of the MEECON program will describe the circumstances, the decision, and the rationale for the decision. The written report will be made available to the student, except for redactions to protect the privacy of other students.

Personal Wellbeing and Title IX

If you are in need of assistance or simply would like to talk to someone, please contact Rice [Wellbeing and Counseling Center](http://wellbeing.rice.edu) (wellbeing.rice.edu), which includes Title IX Support.

The Barbara and David Gibbs Wellness Center, 1st floor
Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday
Telephone: (713) 348-3311 (24 hours)
Fax: (713) 348-5953

Services Provided: Initial consultations, brief same day in-person consultations, and urgent care services.