

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### ■ **How do I begin the process of application?**

1. You need to first speak with your undergraduate advisor to talk about your promise for graduate studies.
2. You then need to speak with the professor with whom you see yourself studying and talk about your interests. You will not be considered for admission unless you have a commitment from a professor in DEA who is willing to work with you as your tentative thesis chair.
3. Your tentative thesis chair will require you to take a number of courses during undergraduate studies to prepare for your thesis work.
4. Speak with the Director of Graduate Studies for any unanswered questions you might have about graduate studies.
5. Lastly, schedule an appointment to take the GREs, as you will need to submit scores with your application.

### ■ **If the professor voices interest in working with me, am I automatically accepted?**

No. A commitment from a professor to work with you is by no means a guarantee of acceptance. The entire DEA Graduate Faculty will review your application and decide if you are a good fit for the 4+1 program.

### ■ **Can I take time off to go work and then apply to the 4+1 program?**

You may defer your application to the program for one year with approval of your tentative thesis chair, but it is expected that you will be working in the field or in some professional capacity that directly informs your future thesis work.

### ■ **How do I know what courses to take prior to being accepted?**

You should review the M.A. and M.S. requirements for graduation to see what courses you must complete. Then, speak with your potential thesis chair who will advise you on which ones you should elect during your junior and senior years.

### ■ **How do I know what courses to take after being accepted?**

You should review the M.A. and M.S. requirements for graduation to see what courses you must complete. Then, speak with your thesis chair who will help you plan your course of study and research focus.

### ■ **If I am accepted, am I considered a first-year graduate student?**

No. All 4+1s are considered second-year graduate students because of their advance preparation and coursework. You will be expected to work at an accelerated pace in order to complete your degree by August of the following year.

### ■ **How long is the 4+1 program?**

Two semesters plus one summer. You should be prepared to stay the following summer to complete your thesis writing and defense. It is unusual that 4+1 students complete their thesis work by May graduation.