



What a proud day! On behalf of the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and the Department of Economics, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on earning your Economics degree from Southern Methodist University. Your passion, commitment, and dedicated pursuit of your career goals and aspirations will allow you to thrive in your future endeavors and make impactful contributions to the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges – virtual classes, social distancing from friends and loved ones, postponed commencement ceremony, uncertainty and anxiety about the job market and more - but your resilience and adaptability allowed you to thrive during this unprecedented time. You have made our department proud!

Thanks to outstanding students like yourself, Economics continues to attract the largest number of majors within Dedman College (and is the second most popular major in the entire university). Exit surveys of economics graduates indicate a high degree of satisfaction with our undergraduate program and almost two-thirds of students mention the high quality of the economics faculty as the best part of their experience. One of our graduates wrote:

"It's an exciting feeling to be a part of continuing my family's long legacy here on the hilltop, and I'm honored to be able to say that I am the 7th member of my family to be graduating from this prestigious institution. Economics has taught me how to think in a more systematic and cohesive way, allowing me to simplify the way in which I make choices, interpret information, view different situations and come up with efficient solutions."

Thank you for investing in a world-class education at SMU and for choosing a degree in Economics to underpin your life's journey. I am confident that you are well-equipped for a lifetime of success with specialized analytical, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills to dominate the job market and pursue your dreams.

It is my privilege as Department Chair to see our graduates begin another life journey. If there is a special someone or group of people whose sacrifice, love and support have made your academic journey and success possible, I applaud and honor them. As you go forth as alum of the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, please know that your alma mater and our faculty are incredibly proud of your academic accomplishments, and we are counting on you to bring to life our university motto, **"World Changers Shaped Here."**

Dedman College is offering a **30% tuition discount** to graduating seniors who want to pursue a graduate degree in Economics. The GRE and the \$75 application fee will be waived for Fall 2020 admissions. A Masters' degree in Economics at SMU is the most efficient way to augment your broad undergraduate training in economic thinking and analysis with specific advanced skills necessary to work as professional economists and critical business decision makers. These skills include data analytics, advanced economic modeling and strategic analysis. For more information about the Master of Science in Applied Economics and Predictive Analytics (MSAEPA) or The Master of Arts in Applied Economics, please visit: <https://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Academics/Departments/Economics/Graduate> or contact Stephanie Robertson, the Economics Graduate Advisor at stephanie@smu.edu.

Congratulations again! I encourage you to share your virtual graduation celebratory activities by tagging **@SMUDedman** **@SMUEconDept**, and using the hashtags **#2020DedmanCollegeGrads** **#SMUECOGrad2020**. I offer you my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Santanu Roy, Ph.D.
Department Chair and Professor of Economics
University Distinguished Professor
Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences