



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 knowledge and your aspirations will allow you to thrive in your future endeavors and make impactful contributions to the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented much anxiety and many challenges, from virtual classes to social distancing from friends and loved ones (and faculty!) to uncertainty about the job market and more. But, as novelist James Lane Allen famously wrote, "Adversity does not build character, it reveals it." In the face of this adversity, you have shown to possess great character, adapting to the world around us and thriving 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; roughly two-thirds of students mention the high quality of the economics faculty as the best part of their experience. Some of the comments from our graduates include:

"I am beyond proud to say that I am graduating with an Economics degree from SMU! This program has been the best thing I could have imagined for my academic journey at SMU."

"My drive to become an economist began when I stepped foot on a college campus and asked myself, 'How does the world truly work?' Since that moment, my academic pursuits have been consumed by the ever-expanding field of economics."

"Upon graduation, I feel like I understand the state of the world around me more vividly."

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 alumni 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."** And, when you do, the department wants to know about it!

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 2021 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 (MSAEP) 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 **#2021DedmanCollegeGrads #SMUECOGrad2021**. I offer you my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Millimet, Ph.D.
Department Chair
Dedman Trustee Professor of Economics
Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences