GPED Orientation  
August 25, 2015

Kamal Saggi  
GPED Director

**Introduction**: background, childhood, education, grad school; and research interests.

**Introduce**

Ana Regina Andrade: **Associate Director** of GPED. Graduate of our program; has taught in the Department and at the Peabody School of Education. So grateful to have her support as I do double duty as GPED Director and Department Chair.

Shijie Shi: **Assistant Director** of GPED. Shijie will hold classes in STATA for our students and will also be able to help you with course content, and other academic issues. Shijie joined us last year and has been invaluable in meeting our new students and helping you settle in this year.

Mouzon Siddiqi: You are extremely fortunate to have Mouzon working tirelessly to help you through this program and life in Nashville.

Mouzon is **Program Coordinator** and has worked in the GPED for 28 years. She has been with Vanderbilt for 40 years. Mouzon can help you with non-academic problems, transfer credits, audits, drop/ads, and maintaining full-time status, checking degree requirements, etc. She gladly gives out her cell phone number for evening and weekend emergencies. *If you are not sure who to ask about something, or what office to check with, ask Mouzon for help.*

**Importance of economic development**: No subject in economics is as important as economic development. How could it be? Considering that a large chunk of the world’s population lives in economies that are considered developing or underdeveloped, the case for studying development is obvious. But I need not sell you on that: you are all here because you agree with that!

**Distinguished program**: You should be proud of joining a program as distinguished as the GPED program. It is over 61 years old and is one of the best known MA level programs in the country. The university and the department are justifiably proud of the program’s reputation and intellectual history.
Global program: Throughout its history, GPED has had students from 131 countries. We have 25 students from 11 countries this fall. With the second year class, our students represents 15 countries. Indeed, looking at you all I am tempted to break into “We are the world!”

Distinguished Alumni: The GPED program has had many distinguished alumni, the best known among them being Dr. Muhammad Yunus who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 and whose resplendent photograph you saw in the corridor bulletin board and on the GPED web-page! As you probably know already, GPED alumni include finance ministers, central bank governors, members of legislative branches, academics, and professionals working with the World Bank and the IMF. Last year, while traveling through Istanbul I had lunch with three prominent alumni, one of whom is an equity partner in a major financial firm, another that is in charge of one of the three arms of a major multinational company, and a third that was ex-Governor of Turkey’s Central Bank. I have no doubt that many of you will one day rise to such positions of prominence.

GPED Forum: An important part of your education. You should attend it regularly. There will be visiting speakers from universities, think tanks, UN organizations, and the private sector. We will also invite alumni to help you better connect with them. Schedule is posted on the GPED web-page.

Roll Call: (See attached sheet.) Call students in alphabetical order, asking them to stand, state their name, country, previous positions and name the wish to be called by their classmates.

GPED Orientation
August 25, 2015

Ana Regina Vides de Andrade
GPED Associate Director

I. Field of interest
When we meet, I would like to know if you have interest in job hunting or Ph.D. study (so you may begin planning now), and your field of interest.

II. Grade Scale
4.0 Grades A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1 and F=0 (+ and - = 0.3 pts.)
For example B+ will be 3.3, B will be 3.0, and B- will be 2.7.

III. Degree requirements

Basic Requirement: 30 credit hours with B average (3.0 GPA)
All students must complete a substantive research project by taking either ECON 7910 or ECON 7920 or by completing such a project in a required field course (with the approval of the GPED Director).

IV. Core curriculum

1. Required core courses (15 credit hours):
   - ECON 6100: Microeconomic Theory
   - ECON 6200: Macroeconomic Theory
   - ECON 6500: Statistical Analysis
   - ECON 6600: Econometrics
   - ECON 7910 or 7920: Seminar in Research on Econ. Devel.

   In the first semester, all students must take 2 core courses: Microeconomics and Statistical Analysis.
   All students will take Macroeconomics and Econometrics in the Spring semester.
   The Research Seminar will require students to collect their own data, choose a model, review literature, estimate the model and interpret results. It is best to take the Research Seminar in your second year.

2. Required field courses (6 credit hours):
   Students should take 2 courses among the following courses:
   - ECON 7100: Project Evaluation
   - ECON 7600: International Trade and Economic Development
   - ECON 7881: Special Topics in Development Policies
   - ECON 7882: Special Topics in Development Policies
   - ECON 7910 or 7920: Seminar in Research on Econ. Devel.

3. Elective courses (9 credit hours):
   Students must take 9 credit hours of elective courses.
   These electives may be chosen from the GPED field courses, courses within Econ department and outside the Econ department.

3.1 Electives within Econ Dept. or Financial Economics
   Generally speaking, only ECON courses with numbers higher than the ECON 5000-level (listed below) can count toward the Master's degree:
   - ECON 5050: Topics in Econometrics
   - ECON 5100: Wages, Employment, and Labor Markets
ECON courses below 5000: With prior permission of the GPED Associate Director and the relevant instructor, a GPED student might take a course for graduate credit on a topic available only in an undergraduate course (numbered below 5000) by enrolling in ECON 7841: Directed Readings to cover the desired content, but with the expectations appropriate for graduate study.

Ph.D.-level ECON courses: Ph.D-level ECON courses as electives: With the prior permission the relevant instructor, GPED students might also be able to enroll in Ph.D.-level classes in economics in their second year. First year students are not allowed to take Ph.D. courses. ALSO, please note, if you AUDIT a course (Ph.D. or otherwise), you MAY NOT take the same course for credit at a later time.

3.2 Electives outside Economics or Financial Economics

Some of the courses offered by the Owen Graduate School of Management, the School of Engineering, Peabody College of Education and Human Development, as well as other departments and programs in the College of Arts and Science such as Asian Studies, History, Managerial Studies, Mathematics, Political Science, etc. could also count towards GPED electives. However, the following rules apply to non-ECON electives:
(a) Students must first obtain permission to enroll in classes outside the Economics Department from the Associate Director of the GPED program.
(b) Only those courses that are listed in the Vanderbilt Graduate Catalog can count towards GPED credit. If you find a course in which you are interested, which is not in the Graduate School Catalog, contact Shijie or Mouzon to see if it is possible to get credit.
(c) Of 9 hours of elective courses, no more than 6 hours (two 3-hour courses, or three 2-hour courses) can be taken outside the Department (i.e. courses other than those listed as ECON or FNEC in university catalogues). This 6 hour limit includes any transfer credit awarded for graduate courses completed at another institution.
V. **HONOR SYSTEM:** Refer to the Vanderbilt website. Cheating on exams will not be tolerated!!

Be sure to have a good understanding of plagiarism. We take this very seriously. Work must be referenced. Quoted material must be put in quotation marks. If you paraphrase someone else's work, you must give the source.

On homework assignments, take home exams, papers, and research projects, **ASK IF IT IS ALL RIGHT TO WORK TOGETHER.**

---

**GPED Orientation**
**August 25, 2015**

**Shijie Shi**  
*GPED Assistant Director*

Welcome to the GPED family. It’s great to have you all here! I am Shijie from Xinjiang, China. Call me Stephey if Shijie is too hard for you.

**I. DROP and ADD classes**

If you have trouble with registering a class, please do let Mouzon or me know. We’ll help you check over the class and see what we can do to get you in the class.

Please be very careful to the deadlines. The policy is very strict so please make decisions before the deadlines. You can drop a class, add a class, or to make other changes on YES system by the end of next Wednesday, **Sept. 2.** After this date, you have to contact me or Mouzon to make any class changes. The hard deadline is Wednesday, **Sept. 9th by 4 p.m.**

If you drop a class before Sept. 9, there will be no entry on your transcript. You can withdraw from a class by **4 p.m., Oct 23.** You will see a “W” as the grade, but it will not affect your GPA. The tuition will be partially refunded depends on the withdrawn date. No class change can be made after Oct 23.

**II. AUDITS**

$10.00 to audit a class.
You will need to acquire professor’s written permission or oral permission. You may send your approval to me or Mouzon so we can contact the graduate school to get you in the class.

For most audits, you will be required only to attend the class. If you attend regularly, and do anything else that is required by the professor, an “AU” will show on your transcript. If you do not attend regularly, you may see an “AW” for “Audit Withdrew”.

Students can audit up to two courses each semester.

Please note: if you audit a class, you will not be allowed to take the same class for credit later. So, if you want to take a course for credit, do not audit it first.

III. **STATA Workshop**

STATA is a statistical software which is widely used in economic research. This is the software which you will most likely to use in your future studies, especially in research seminar. I will offer a workshop in Stata if there is a need. Let me know if you meet problems in STATA. I am happy to work with you and find out the solutions.

IV. **KEYS**

You can check out keys to our office and to the GPED lounge (Calhoun 422) form me.

---

**GPED Orientation**

**August 25. 2015**

**Mouzon Siddiqi**

*Program Coordinator*

First of all, Welcome to the GPED! You are a great group and, once again, I am amazed at how quickly you have been able to settle down. We appreciate your patience with getting everything taken care of.

Please let us know additional things you need and we will try to respond as quickly as we can.

Ask us for things you need. Ask us for things you are unsure about. If we don’t know the answer, we will try to find out who can help you.
You may always call me. My cell number is (615) 202-8730.

I. LENGTH OF PROGRAM

We hope you will be able to be in the Program Fall/Spring/Fall Spring. Sometimes we have a student or students who wish to finish early. Can you do it? Yes, probably so. But think about it. If you are applying for Ph.D., your chances are probably significantly higher if you apply after you have some Master’s level grades to show. If you are here only for one year, you would not stand to benefit (as far as being considered) by our Program because you would need to apply before you have any grades.

If you go on the job market in the U.S., you would also probably really benefit by having a little more time in the Program—this would give you more time to search, perhaps time for an internship, etc. So, consider very carefully trying to rush through the program if you do not really need to do so.

II. TRANSFER CREDITS

It may be possible to transfer up to 6 credit hours if courses you have taken meet the following criteria:

Courses should be: Graduate level
Relevant to your Program at Vanderbilt
Not counted toward your undergraduate degree
Have a grade of “B” or better.

If you have taken courses, and they fit this criteria, feel free to talk with me about the possibility of transferring credits.

III. TAKING LESS THAN A FULL LOAD OF CLASSES

Sometimes students need to take less than 9 hours (full load). If you are taking fewer hours, please see me to make sure you remain in status. If you are registered for the Research Seminar, you will be considered “full time.” If you are not, we will need to sign you up for non-credit research which will not cost anything to you but will keep you in full-time status.

Our international students need full-time status for visa purposes.
Our American students may need full-time status if you have a student loan. Just remember to let me know if you are registered for fewer than 9 hours.

IV. LETTERS
Please feel free to see me for any type of letters you may need:

Certification of full-time status
Certification of good standing in the Program
Invitation for family/friends to visit
Or other letters you may need from the GPED

V. SOCIAL EVENTS
Annual Fall GPED Picnic
GPED Awards Dinner
GPED Group Birthday Parties
Social events sponsored by the Graduate School and ISSS

VI. SOCIAL SECURITY
Each of you will want to get a Social Security Card. Whether you plan to work or not, it is just a very good idea to have one. It is yours for life—and can be used when you are in the U.S. as long as you live. Some students postpone getting a card because they think they will never work here, or will never need one.

However, somewhere down the line, I believe you will need one—you may get a cash award, you may decide to work on campus, etc. It doesn’t hurt anything and it is just a good ideal. I would encourage each of you to obtain one. We will give you the paperwork you need and assist you.

VII. TRUCK
Most of you know, by this time, that I have a truck. I usually drive it to work every day. So, if you need to use it, just let me know.