

Core Empirical Research Methods

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This course will help you develop the basic skills you'll need to carry out applied economic research. It will cover a mix of applied econometrics, programming/computing, and research skills.

Because Core ERM is about *doing* economics, it will not be a traditional lecture course. **Students should bring their laptops to lectures** so that they can follow along with live demos and work on examples in small groups. While there will still be some lecture-style material, the overall format will be closer to a “lab” in the natural sciences. GTAs (Graduate Teaching Assistants) will attend each lecture to help give you individualized help if you get stuck while working through in-class exercises.

Core ERM will use R and RStudio and assumes basic familiarity with R. If you have limited programming experience or are new to R, I recommend reading this book in advance: [https://rstudio-education.github.io/hopr/Links to an external site.](https://rstudio-education.github.io/hopr/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site). See also my notes on the book, posted online here: [https://qyocwwdd4c.joplinusercontent.com/shares/OsJNRF8AGMOE9NGxpt7YK1Links to an external site.](https://qyocwwdd4c.joplinusercontent.com/shares/OsJNRF8AGMOE9NGxpt7YK1Links%20to%20an%20external%20site)

During Core ERM students will use R and RStudio via a web interface called [Posit CloudLinks to an external site.](#) (this was formerly called RStudio Cloud). This will allow them to carry out all the computations needed for the course from any web browser without the need to install or configure packages on their own machines.

Course Material

Course materials for the inaugural version of core ERM are available at [empirical-methods.comLinks to an external site.](#) and [treatment-effects.comLinks to an external site.](#). I am modifying these materials for the 2023 iteration. More details will follow soon.