

Ph.D. Program and Course Requirements

The Ph.D. Program in Economics usually requires five years to complete. The program focuses on students beginning active research early in their career.

Course Requirements

The program stresses a strong foundation in theory and econometrics. There are nine core courses in the Ph.D. curriculum, focused on three major areas: Macroeconomic Theory (Economics 204A-B-C), Microeconomic Theory (Economics 210A-B-C), and Econometrics (Economics 241A-B-C). The core courses are completed during the first year of the program as follows:

Fall Quarter

- Economics 204A: "Macroeconomic Theory"
- Economics 210A: "Theory of Consumption and Production"
- Economics 241A: "Econometrics"

Winter Quarter

- Economics 204B: "Macroeconomic Theory"
- Economics 210B: "Introduction to Game Theory"
- Economics 241B: "Econometrics"

Spring Quarter

- Economics 204C: "Macroeconomic Theory"
- Economics 210C: "Markets and Incentives"
- Economics 241C: "Econometrics"

In addition, all new Ph.D. student whether working as a new teaching assistants or not, must enroll in Economics 297: "Seminar on the Teaching of Economics", during the Fall quarter of their first year. This is our Teaching Assistant training course and is the first of many steps in becoming a successful T.A. here in the Department of Economics.

In the second year, students complete eight elective courses in two separate fields in their entirety (each field consists of two or three courses) and other field courses to complete the total of 8 elective courses.

Normal Academic Progress

All courses used to satisfy requirements of the Ph.D. program are taken for a letter grade. A grade point average of 3.0 (letter grade B) is required to receive an M.A. or Ph.D. degree.

Departmental Requirements - First Year

Ph.D. students must complete the Macroeconomics, Microeconomics and Econometrics core courses with a grade of B or better in each course. Students must receive a Ph.D. pass on the preliminary examinations at the end of the first year in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics and Econometrics. Grading categories for the preliminary examinations are "Fail", "M.A. Pass", "Ph.D. Pass" and "Ph.D. Pass with Distinction." To proceed in the Ph.D. program, students must receive a Ph.D. Pass or a Ph.D. Pass with Distinction on all three preliminary exams.

Students have two opportunities to pass each examination, the first in June, after completion of the Spring quarter, and the second in August, before the start of Fall quarter. Students must pass all three preliminary exams with a Ph.D. Pass or a Ph.D. Pass with Distinction in order to proceed to the 2nd year of the Ph.D. program.

Students who receive an M.A. pass (or higher) on the preliminary examinations (and who satisfy the above grade requirements) are eligible to receive the M.A. degree in Economics.

Students who receive only an M.A. pass on the preliminary examinations (and who satisfy the above grade requirements) are eligible to receive the M.A. degree in Economics, **but are not eligible to continue in the Ph.D. program.**

Departmental Requirements - Second Year

Ph.D. students start to take eight elective courses. The courses that satisfy the two field requirement must be completed with an average grade of at least an A- (3.70). The electives must include specializations in two fields. The fields are: Econometrics, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Experimental and Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Macroeconomic Theory and Policy, Mathematical Economics, and Public Finance. All courses taken toward fulfilling field courses and elective course requirements must be taken for a letter grade.

In the second year, students begin a research project to launch their dissertation research. When they complete the project and defend proposals for the rest of their dissertation in an oral qualifying examination administered by their doctoral committee, they advance to candidacy. **The goal is to reach this important milestone by the end of the Fall quarter of the fourth year, at the very latest.**

Departmental Requirements – Third Year

Students must enroll in the graduate research seminar (Economics 293) during their third year **and attend at least 6 seminars during the course of the quarter**. Students are required to pass the third year review by the end of Spring quarter. To pass the third year review, the dissertation supervisor endorses the student's first research paper (3rd Year paper), which is then posted on the graduate research website. The graduate research website contains all graduate student research papers and is online for public viewing.

Departmental Requirements – Fourth Year

Students are required to advance to candidacy (all field courses and field electives must be first completed) **by the end of the Fall quarter**. To advance, students select a dissertation committee and discuss a research proposal. Students are required to pass the fourth year review by the end of Spring quarter of the fourth year. To pass the fourth year review, students receive their supervisor's endorsement to post their second research paper (4th year paper) and they receive the endorsement of their committee that they are ready to enter the job market in the fall of their fifth year.

Public defense of the completed dissertation is required by the dissertation committee.

Departmental Requirements – Fifth Year

Students work toward the completion and submission of their dissertation. Students enter the job market and graduate by the end of the Spring quarter.