

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

GRADUATE PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE PH.D DEGREE IN ECONOMICS

Degree Requirements:

Students in the PhD program in Economics complete coursework in Economics as outlined below. In addition, all students must complete either a MS in Economics and Applied Econometrics at the University of Delaware or satisfy an equivalency requirement.

The following is a summary of the course and credit requirements for the MS in Economics and Applied Econometrics.

Mathematics: ECON810	3
Economic Theory: ECON811 and ECON812	6
Econometrics: ECON822, ECON823, and at least one of the following: ECON804, ECON824 or ECON825	9
Electives: Graduate-level courses approved by the Graduate Committee	12
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS	30

All requirements apply to students enrolled in the 4+1 BS/MS program.

Required courses in the PhD program (in addition to those listed above for the MS degree) are:

Economic Theory: ECON813 and ECON814	6
Econometrics: ECON824 and ECON825 (if not taken as part of MS degree)	3-6
Dissertation Workshop: ECON850 (two consecutive semesters of 1 credit)	2
Topics Field Courses (at least two)	6
Elective: To be chosen from graduate-level courses with approval of the Graduate Committee	0-3
Dissertation (ECON969)	9
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS (in addition to MS or MS equivalence)	29

Seminar Requirement:

All students must register for and attend ECON890 (weekly department seminar) and meet established participation requirements.

Preliminary and Comprehensive Field Examination Requirements:

Students must pass preliminary examinations in both Microeconomic and Macroeconomic theory. Students are required to take these exams when first offered after completion of ECON813 (Microeconomics) and ECON814 (Macroeconomics). Students who do not pass an examination on the first attempt may retake it one additional time. Continuation in the program is contingent on passing these examinations.

Students must also pass a comprehensive field exam in a two-course field that includes a Topics course. The number of fields and Topics courses available depends on staffing considerations. Students must take at least two courses in the field prior to taking the examination. The Department maintains a current list of fields, Topics courses, and courses that satisfy the field requirements. A faculty committee consisting of at least two members will be responsible for the writing and grading of the examinations. Each examination is graded as Pass or Fail. Students must receive a grade of Pass.

A student has a maximum of two attempts to pass each of the three examinations. If necessary, an examination must be retaken the first time the examination is offered. A missed attempt reduces the number of available attempts.

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Field examinations will be administered according to the following schedule:

Last Thursday in June	Microeconomics	Macroeconomics retake	Field
Last Thursday before fall classes	Microeconomics retake	-----	-----
Last Thursday before Spring classes	-----	Macroeconomics	Field

Additional Requirements for Concentrations in the Allied Fields of Agricultural Economics and Financial Economics:

While earning a Ph.D. in Economics, students may choose to complete concentrations in either Financial Economics or Agricultural Economics. The transcript and diploma of each student completing one of these concentrations will note the concentration by name. The additional requirements for the concentrations are described further below.

The Concentration in Agricultural Economics:

The student must take at least two approved Agricultural Economics courses (two of the following: APEC801, APEC827, and APEC834). In addition, students must write a dissertation in Agricultural Economics under the joint supervision of one member of the faculty whose primary appointment is in the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics and one whose primary appointment is in the Department of Economics. The dissertation committee may have additional members whose primary appointment is in the Department of Food and Resource Economics but must have one additional member whose primary appointment is in the Department of Economics. The total number of committee members must be at least four but no more than six.

The Concentration in Financial Economics:

The student must take at least two approved courses in Financial Economics (FINC871 and FINC872). In addition, students concentrating in Financial Economics must write a dissertation in financial economics under the joint supervision of one member of the faculty whose primary appointment is in the Department of Economics and one member whose primary appointment is in the Department of Finance. The dissertation committee may have additional members whose primary appointment is in the Department of Finance but must have one additional member whose primary appointment is in the Department of Economics. The total number of committee members must be at least four but no more than six.

M.S. Equivalency: Students who receive a Master’s degree in Economics elsewhere do not generally need to complete the full 59 credits for the PhD in Economics at UD. While graduate credit used to earn a degree cannot be used to earn another degree, students may receive equivalency credit that reduces the total number of additional credits needed for the PhD degree. Courses granted equivalency substitute for required course credits for our MS in Economics and Applied Econometrics.

The Graduate Committee determines equivalency on an individual basis. Equivalency is granted only when a student provides evidence that a course is fully equivalent to one required for the MS in Economics and Applied Econometrics and that mastery of the material has been achieved. The Graduate Committee has sole authority to award equivalency.

Admissions Policies: Applicants will be admitted to the program based upon enrollment availability and their abilities relative to other candidates. The following are the minimum requirements.

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- Applicants must have a minimum GRE Quantitative score of 156.
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- For non-native English speakers an officially reported minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based test) or 100 (IBT) or 7.0 IELTS.
- A written statement of goals and objectives, including a statement that clearly identifies the applicant's interest in the program.
- Coursework in microeconomics and macroeconomics at the intermediate level or above and in statistics and mathematics (multivariate calculus) is expected. Otherwise qualified students who lack this background may be directed to appropriate coursework to remedy this deficiency.

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet stated requirements are not guaranteed admission. Admission decisions are made by the Department of Economics Graduate Committee and are based upon a number of factors, including the applicant's GRE scores, college transcripts, application essays and letters of recommendation.

Program Administration: The PhD program is administered by the department's Graduate Committee under the direction of the Director of Graduate Programs. The committee consists of members of the departmental faculty appointed for one-year, renewable terms by the departmental Chairperson. This committee is charged with recruiting students to the program, making admissions and funding decisions, and assuring that the program is administered in accordance with this policy document.

Graduate Program Faculty: The graduate program faculty includes all full-time, Department of Economics faculty of the rank of assistant professor or above. Part-time faculty and faculty with joint appointments may be included at the discretion of the Chairperson, Department of Economics.

Requirements for Graduation: Students must meet the University's full-time residency requirement of at least one continuous academic year consisting of at least nine credits per semester and must complete their degree within the time limit established by the University. The University of Delaware Graduate catalog provides guidelines governing a possible extension of the time limit for circumstances beyond a student's control.

Degree Completion:

Admission to Ph.D. Candidacy:

Procedures for admission to Ph.D. candidacy are as specified by the Office of Graduate Studies in the graduate catalog. Admission to candidacy must be obtained before the deadlines specified in the graduate catalog calendar. Responsibility for seeing that admission is secured at the proper time rests with the student, but must include the recommendation of the student's dissertation committee and the chairperson of the department.

Doctoral Dissertation:

A. Dissertation Proposal

1. It is the responsibility of the student to form a Ph.D. dissertation committee. The composition of the dissertation committee must be approved by the Graduate Committee and be in accordance with the provisions listed in the University of Delaware Graduate catalog.
2. Faculty with joint appointments in the Department of Economics can serve as outside members of dissertation committees.
3. Upon obtaining the written consent of the Department Chairperson, the student must notify the University Administrator of Graduate Student Academic Affairs in writing of the composition of the committee.
4. Overlap in membership between the Department's Graduate Committee and the dissertation committee does not require those involved to disqualify themselves for respective action.
5. Students who have completed all required course work but who have not been admitted to candidacy can register for Research (ECON 868). However, no more than three credits of Research accomplished prior to admission to candidacy can be applied toward the dissertation.
6. The student must make an oral defense of approximately one hour of a written dissertation proposal before the student's dissertation committee. The length and content of the written proposal is determined by the Chairperson of the dissertation committee. To be approved, the proposal must receive the unanimous support of the committee members. The Graduate Committee reviews all cases of students who do not pass the oral defense to determine

whether or not the student is making sufficient progress to justify continuation in the doctoral program.

7. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal by the committee, the student shall provide one copy of the proposal for his or her file in the department office. The proposal is to be signed by all members of the committee. The chairperson of the dissertation committee will also notify the University Administrator of Graduate Student Academic Affairs, who admits the student to formal candidacy. (Consult graduate catalog for specific time schedule for admission to formal candidacy).

B. The Dissertation

1. Changes in the membership of the dissertation committee require the approval of the Graduate Committee.
2. The bibliographic form and style of the dissertation must conform to expectations of the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Copies of the Dissertation:
 - a. one for the departmental archives;
 - b. others as required by the Office of Graduate Studies; students should consult with the Office of Graduate Studies regarding dissertation guidelines.

C. Oral Defense of Dissertation

1. All other requirements for the degree must be completed before the oral defense of dissertation is scheduled.
2. The chairperson of the dissertation committee shall be responsible for scheduling the defense and for notifying the faculty and the University Administrator of Graduate Student Academic Affairs three (3) weeks prior to the defense.
3. The dissertation defense is administered by the dissertation committee.
4. The oral defense is open to the public, but the right to vote is reserved to the dissertation committee.

5. Grading is on a pass or fail basis. A majority vote is required for any action. The Graduate Committee reviews all cases of students who do not pass the oral defense to determine whether or not the student is making sufficient progress to justify continuation in the doctoral program.
6. It is the responsibility of the chairperson of the dissertation committee to notify the Director of Graduate Studies and the University Administrator of Graduate Student Academic Affairs of the decision of the dissertation committee.

Graduate Student Funding and Time Limits: Graduate student financial support comes from both University and non-university sources. Faculty graduate advisors are not obliged to provide financial support to students, nor does the Department of Economics guarantee financial support for the duration of a student's program.

Financial aid is awarded on the basis of merit within the defined programs of study by the Department Chairperson. Graduate students under contract are reviewed each semester for academic standing and progress toward the degree. Subject to limits imposed by available funds, the Department attempts to continue to support those PhD students progressing satisfactorily through completion of the normal degree period of three semesters for the Master of Science in Economics and Applied Econometrics degree and three and a half additional years for completion of the PhD degree. Except for valid extenuating circumstances, financial support will not continue beyond this period.

Dismissal Policy: The Department of Economics adheres to the University policy for termination of doctoral students with the following specific exceptions. Students must terminate their studies for the doctorate if they are unable to pass either of the preliminary examinations (Microeconomics and Macroeconomics) or the field exam after two attempts or if they fail to make sufficient progress as determined on an individual basis by the Graduate Committee. If in the opinion of the Graduate Committee the student is not making satisfactory progress, the student and the student's advisor will be notified. The student will have the opportunity to meet with the Director of Graduate Programs to discuss to Committee's actions. Possible outcomes of this action include reassignment of the student to another faculty advisor or termination of the student from the graduate program.

Waiver Policy: Students who seek a waiver of any of the above-mentioned policies must do so in writing to the Graduate Committee.