Economics, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in economics requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. The program provides rigorous training in economic theory, econometrics, and applied economics. It has six components: a coordinated sequence of core courses, a qualifying examination, a research paper, a set of major field courses, a dissertation proposal and comprehensive examination, and a dissertation.

The department partners with the College of Law to offer a joint degree program; see “Joint Ph.D./J.D.” below. It also participates in the M.B.A. program; see Master of Business Administration Program in the Catalog.

Requirements are as follows.

Core Sequence

First Semester
- ECON:5005 Real Analysis for Economics 2
- ECON:5015 Dynamic Programming 2
- ECON:5115 Fundamentals of Microeconomics 2
- ECON:5135 General Equilibrium 2
- ECON:5215 Fundamentals of Macroeconomics I 2
- ECON:5225 Fundamentals of Macroeconomics II 2
- ECON:5805 Statistics for Economics 2

Second Semester
- ECON:5125 Game Theory 2
- ECON:5145 Information Economics 2
- ECON:5235 Fiscal Policy and Insurance in Macroeconomics 2
- ECON:5245 Monetary Economics and Search Theory 2
- ECON:5815 Theoretical Econometrics I 2
- ECON:5825 Theoretical Econometrics II 2

Third Semester
- ECON:5855 Applied Econometrics I 2
- ECON:5865 Applied Econometrics II 2

Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination is normally taken the summer after the first year.

Research Paper

The research paper is normally completed the summer after the second year.

Major Field Courses

Each student chooses a major study area in addition to the core courses. The requirement for the major area is a minimum of 24 s.h. of intensive study in a field and in courses that enable students to understand the relationship between their specialty and related fields.

Dissertation Proposal and Comprehensive Examination

Students must defend a dissertation proposal in a comprehensive examination within one year of completing the research paper requirement.

Dissertation

Submission of the completed dissertation and an oral defense of the dissertation research completes the Ph.D. program.

Joint Ph.D./J.D.

The Department of Economics and the College of Law offer a joint Doctor of Philosophy/Juris Doctor program; for information about the J.D. degree, see the Juris Doctor (College of Law) section of the Catalog. Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the joint degree program.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. Application deadline for admission and financial support is January 15 for fall semester entry.

Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test and have their scores sent to the University. Those whose first language is not English and who do not hold a baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited college or university in the United States must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and have their scores sent to the University.

Applicants must submit a completed Application for Graduate Admission, official transcripts from all institutions they have attended, and all official test scores to the University of Iowa Office of Admissions.

Career Advancement

Over 90 percent of students reported that they found permanent employment, were accepted to graduate school, or were not seeking employment within six months of graduation.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs; for more information about careers, visit What Can I Do with a Major in Economics on the Pomerantz Career Center website.