Economics, PhD

Learning Outcomes

- To demonstrate proficiency and knowledge in the specialization discipline, students will demonstrate expertise in reading and interpreting academic research articles in their specialized discipline. They will be knowledgeable in the major theoretical perspectives and prior research findings in their area and be able to integrate prior research from various streams of literature.
- To demonstrate the ability to conduct independent, original research that leads to publications, students will be able to identify important research questions, provide theory-based reasoning to develop original hypotheses, execute an appropriate research design, and summarize their efforts in a working paper. This includes being able to read and summarize existing research into their paper and understanding the prior literature in a variety of substantive areas, paradigms, and methodologies.
- To be effective teachers in their disciplines, students will demonstrate proficiency as instructors in courses in their specialized discipline. This includes preparing course syllabi, giving lectures, writing assignments and exams, and evaluating students on the various deliverables.
- To demonstrate effective communication skills, students will be effective at communicating ideas in academic writing and how these ideas relate to each other within the context of an academic paper. This includes the ability to establish a position, show why that position matters, and situate that position within a context that is determined by the appropriate audience. International students will demonstrate the ability to effectively lecture and communicate in English.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in economics requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 to earn the degree. 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 combined JD/PhD degree program; see Combined Programs [p. 1] in this section of the catalog. It also participates in the MBA program; see the Master of Business Administration Program in the catalog.

The PhD in economics requires the following coursework.

Core Sequence

First Semester

Course #	Title	Hours
ECON:5115	Fundamentals of Microeconomics	3
ECON:5200	Macroeconomics I	3
ECON:5805	Statistics for Economics	3

Second Semester

Course #	Title	Hours
ECON:5110	Microeconomics II	3
ECON:5210	Macroeconomics II	3
ECON:5800	Econometrics	3

Third Semester

Course #	Title	Hours
ECON:5810	Applied Econometrics	3
ECON:6320	Labor Economics	3
ECON:6420	Macroeconomics III	3
ECON:6900	Contemporary Topics in Economics	3

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

Students choose 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 PhD program.

Combined Programs

PhD/JD

The Department of Economics and the College of Law offer a combined Doctor of Philosophy/Juris Doctor program. Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the JD, see Juris Doctor, JD (College of Law) in the catalog.

Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

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

The application deadline for admission and financial support is Jan. 15 for fall entry.

Career Advancement

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