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Introduction

The faculty of the Department of Economics at the University of Oklahoma has a strong commitment to excellence in graduate education. It has focused its efforts on providing a solid base of core theoretical and empirical skills and the opportunity to study in a limited number of field areas. More than 180 Ph.D.’s in Economics have been graduated since the early 1950s. Many of the Department’s graduates have gone on to distinguished careers in higher education, government, and the private sector.

The Ph.D. program is designed with the goal of providing students with maximum support in the pursuit of their career objectives. There are three structural elements in the Ph.D. program. The first element consists of a rigorous and well-integrated core curriculum of economic theory and statistical analysis. The Ph.D. program in Economics at the University of Oklahoma is distinctive in its effort to prepare the student to do applied economic research. The second element consists of concentrated study in selected fields. The department offers fields in development economics, industrial organization, international economics, and public economics. The third element consists of training designed to prepare the student to undertake independent research. This process culminates in a significant work of original research in the form of a dissertation. Having completed all three elements, our students are fully qualified to pursue academic, professional, or governmental careers.

The program is also subject to all the requirements of the Graduate College as outlined in the Graduate College catalog. The Graduate College can be reached through e-mail at gradinfo@ou.edu, the internet http://gradweb.ou.edu or by phone (405) 325-3811.

Admission Requirements

Previous Coursework

Applicants usually have a bachelor’s degree in Economics but this is not a prerequisite. Some coursework in economics including both intermediate micro and macroeconomics is required prior to starting the program. All applicants need a good working knowledge of mathematics and basic statistics. At least two semesters of theoretical calculus and one semester of basic statistics or their equivalents are required. A previous course in linear algebra is highly recommended.

Application Requirements

The Department of Economics evaluates each applicant individually to select those who have the aptitude, scholarship, and analytical skills necessary to successfully complete an advanced degree. We all of require the following information:
1. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework.

2. Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) aptitude test. (To insure that these scores are current, the exam must have been taken in the last two years.)

3. Three (3) letters of recommendation.

4. Scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants from non-English speaking nations.

The Graduate College of the University of Oklahoma has specific admission requirements of:

1. A “B” average or better over the last 60 hours of undergraduate study or the last 12 hours of graduate study.

2. For non-native English speaking applicants, a TOEFL score of 550 or higher (79 or higher on the IBT).

The Department of Economics does not have specific admission requirements (e.g. minimum GRE scores). Rather, an admissions committee comprised of three members of the graduate faculty recommends admission on the basis of GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and prior academic record. All these sources of information are helpful in the evaluation of an applicant’s ability to pursue an advanced degree. Consequently, applications will not be considered unless all information is available.

Coursework for the Ph.D. Degree

Hours Requirement

The Ph.D. degree requirements are determined by the Economics Department in conjunction with the requirements of the Graduate College of the University of Oklahoma as set forth in the General Catalog. In cases of uncertainty, the student is advised to refer to the General Catalog and/or consult the Department’s Graduate Program Director (GPD).

The Ph.D. degree requires at least 90 hours beyond the Bachelor’s degree. A minimum of 54 of these hours must consist of formal coursework, with the remainder being comprised by dissertation research. The Graduate Program Director (GPD, currently Dr. Greg Burge) in consultation with the Graduate College will determine the actual number of hours that may be transferred in specific cases.

In addition, students must demonstrate research proficiency, which is required for all doctoral degree candidates at the University of Oklahoma. The research proficiency for the Department of Economics is demonstrated by the ability to utilize statistical and econometric software packages, by foreign language expertise, or by demonstrated math proficiencies.
Formal Coursework

Curriculum. The following course sequence will generally constitute the basis of the student’s first three years of study:

Ph.D. Course Sequence

➢ First Year

Fall Semester
ECON 5153 – Mathematical Economics I
ECON 5123 – Advanced Price and Welfare Theory
ECON 5163 – Advanced Macroeconomics & Growth Theory

Spring Semester
ECON 6313 – Seminar in Macroeconomic and Growth Theory
ECON 6213 – Seminar in Price and Welfare Theory
ECON 5213 – Econometrics I

*August following first year: Core Exam I

➢ Second Year

Fall Semester
ECON 5243 – Econometrics II
FIELD
FIELD/ELECTIVE

Spring Semester
ECON 6343 – Econometrics III
FIELD
FIELD/ELECTIVE

*August following second year: Core Exam II

➢ Third Year

Fall Semester
FIELD/ELECTIVE
FIELD
FIELD/ELECTIVE

*Complete Advisory Committee Report

Spring Semester
ECON 5960 – Readings in Selected Fields in Economics
FIELD
FIELD/ELECTIVE

*Complete the General Exam

Qualifying Examinations

Students in the Ph.D. program must pass two qualifying examinations which test their competency in various components of economic theory. Only students who pass both examinations will be allowed to remain in the Ph.D. program.
The first qualifying examination is based on the first year required classes and is administered in early August, approximately three weeks prior to the start of fall semester classes. The purpose of this exam is to assure that students have mastered the vital tools covered in first year courses prior to taking advanced courses. The exam is in three parts: microeconomic theory (ECON 5123 and ECON 6213), macroeconomic theory (ECON 5163 and ECON 6313) and math, statistics and econometrics (ECON 5153 and ECON 5213). Each of the three parts is graded by placing the response into one of the following categories: Ph.D. pass, M.A. Pass, or Fail. All parts of the first qualifying exam must be passed at the Ph.D. level.

Students are allowed one opportunity to retake the exam. The retake is given in January, during the week prior to the start of spring semester classes. The student need only retake the parts of the exam for which the grade was less than a Ph.D. pass. If a student fails to obtain a Ph.D. pass on the second effort, that student is required to leave the Ph.D. program. In this event the student has the option of continuing their graduate studies in the Applied Economics Track of the M.A. program, provided that the student received at least an M.A. pass on all parts of the exam. Satisfactory completion of the remainder of the M.A. coursework will allow the student to earn a terminal M.A. degree.

The second qualifying examination is administered in August prior to the start of third year classes. The purpose of this exam is to assure students can master advanced material required to conduct independent research. The exam has two parts: econometrics (ECON 5243 and ECON 6343) and one of the department’s four field sequences (described below in Section V). Typically two of the four field sequences will be offered each year, so students must take the courses for one of the fields offered in their second year and then be tested on those courses. Grades for this examination are Pass and Fail, and are assigned for each part. Both parts of the exam must be passed. One opportunity to retake the second qualifying exam is allowed. The retake is given in January during the week prior to the start of spring semester classes. A student who fails to pass this exam on the second attempt is required to leave the Ph.D. program but can continue their graduate studies in the Applied Economics Track of the M.A. program.

Fields of Specialization & Special Courses

Field Courses

The fields of specialization are designed to develop an in-depth knowledge of the theory and literature of the fields chosen. They prepare the student to become an active researcher in those fields and offer potential topics for a dissertation. Students must take a minimum of field sequences, at least one of which must be taken in the second year and is tested. The department offers field sequences in the following fields: Growth and Development Economics, Industrial Organization, International Economics, and Public Economics.
Field Coursework

- **Growth and Development Economics**
  - ECON 6693 - Seminar in Economic Development
  - ECON 6653 – Seminar in Growth

- **Industrial Organization**
  - ECON 5313 – Industrial Organization
  - ECON 6333 – Seminar in Industrial Organization

- **International Economics**
  - ECON 5613 – International Economics: Trade
  - ECON 5633 – International Economics: Finance
  - ECON 6613 – Seminar in International Economics

- **Public Economics**
  - ECON 5353 -- Public Finance: Current Issues in Taxation
  - ECON 6123 -- Planning and Policy Analysis
  - ECON 6773 – Seminar in Public Economics

The field sequences are usually offered on an alternating year basis. In cases where three courses are listed above, only two will generally be taught in a particular cycle. In this fashion, students will be able to complete their formal coursework and take any of the department’s field sequences within three years of beginning the Ph.D. program. The specific courses within the fields may vary depending upon faculty availability. A field is earned by taking two courses within the sequence. In the event that certain course offerings are unavailable, the Ph.D. program director will authorize appropriate course substitutions. Under certain circumstances an elective class may be designated by the Graduate Program Director as a substitute for one of the classes listed above.

**Elective Courses**

In addition to our field sequences, the department offers on an occasional basis several other elective classes listed below. Students may also with permission of the Graduate Program Director or the Chair of their Ph.D. Advisory Committee take graduate courses in other departments like Finance, Political Science, Mathematics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), or Regional and City Planning as electives.

- ECON 5853 – World Economic Development
- ECON 6373 – Econometrics IV
- ECON 5173 – Urban & Regional Analysis
- ECON 5373 – Regulation and Public Utilities
Advisory Committee Report and General Exam

Students must form a five faculty member Advisory Committee with the help of the faculty member who agrees to serve as dissertation chair. The Advisory Committee will hold an advisory conference to assess the student’s program of study and areas of specialization. A report of the student’s approved program (the Advisory Committee Report, ACR) is submitted to the Graduate College. The ACR should be completed by the end of the fall semester of the third year or as soon as a student finds a willing dissertation chair.

In addition to the department’s qualifying exams, students must pass the General Examination as required by the Graduate College. Students may apply for the General Exam the semester after they complete their ACR and are expected to take the General Exam in the semester in which they complete their formal course work. A student following the standard program of study outlined here will take the General Exam in the Spring semester of their third year. With special permission from the Graduate Program Director, the General Exam may be taken during the semester following completion of coursework.

The General Exam consists of both a written and oral portion. The written exam is designed by the student’s Advisory Committee to test the student’s mastery of her field of specialization and proposed dissertation topic. Committee members will provide guidance as to the material covered by the written exam. If the performance is adequate on the written exam, an oral exam will be scheduled. The General examination is completed when the oral exam has been passed. At that point, the Graduate Dean, on the recommendation of the Economics Faculty, will admit the student to Candidacy for the Ph.D. degree.

If the performance is not satisfactory either part of the exam, the Advisory Committee will submit a report to the Graduate College indicating the failure and will advise the student regarding the inadequacies of the exam to aid in preparation for retaking the exam. By Graduate College rule, a student who fails the General Examination a second time is disenrolled from the Ph.D. program, but may still choose to complete the requirement for the MA Degree/Applied Economics track.

The Dissertation

In order to facilitate the transition from formal coursework to dissertation research, students enroll in ECON 5960 during the fall and/or spring semester of the third year. The student will enroll for this class with the faculty member who has agreed to chair their dissertation committee. The objective of this course is to lead the student to define a dissertation topic and prepare a dissertation proposal. ECON 5960 can be taken for a maximum of 8 credit hours.

Successful completion of ECON 5960 requires submission of a written dissertation proposal to the student’s Advisory Committee and presentation of a seminar on the topic to the Economics faculty and graduate students. The purpose of the seminar is to enable the faculty to share its collective knowledge with the candidate and to assure support for a topic that can feasibly be developed into a dissertation. Copies of the prospectus will be made available to the participants at least one week prior to the seminar (preferably with even more of a lead). After the seminar, the Doctoral Committee will meet to approve either the original prospectus or a modified version of it.
The department requires that the dissertation be completed, accepted, and the final oral examination be passed no later than five (5) calendar years after Admission to Candidacy. Failure to meet this deadline will result in termination from Ph.D. Candidacy. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Doctoral Committee, with the consent of the faculty and the Graduate Dean, may extend the five-year deadline for a short period.

**Advising**

The Graduate Program Director (GPD, currently Dr. Greg Burge) will advise all incoming Ph.D. students, approve the student’s field and elective course selections, and oversee all Qualifying Examinations. In addition, the GPD has final authority – within the rules of the Graduate College – over the acceptance of credit from a Master’s degree program (as indicated on the Advisory Committee Report). The GPD will continue to advise the student until the student has formed his/her Ph.D. Advisory Committee, at which time the student transitions to being advised by their committee chair.

During the student’s third year of coursework, the student will select 5 graduate faculty members to serve on his/her Ph.D. Advisory Committee. Four (4) will come from the Department of Economics and one (1) will be chosen from outside the department, within the University. The student’s Ph.D. Advisory Committee will prepare and conduct the General Examination and supervise enrollment in ECON 5960 during the spring semester of the third year of coursework. This same committee, with changes in its composition if necessary, will supervise dissertation preparation and conduct the final oral examination over the dissertation.

**Faculty**

**HOOVER, GARY**, Professor, Department Chair (Washington University, Ph.D. 1998)
Fields: Public Economics, Income Distribution, Labor Economics

**BURGE, GREGORY**, Associate Professor (Florida State University, Ph.D. 2005)
Fields: Urban Economics, Public Economics, Housing Economics

**CLARK, WILLIAM M.**, Associate Professor (University of Virginia, Ph.D. 1980)
Fields: Public Finance, Economic Development

**DEMIR, FIRAT**, Associate Professor (Notre Dame University, Ph.D. 2006)
Fields: International Finance, Economic Development

**GHOSH, PALLAB**, Assistant Professor (Syracuse University, Ph.D. 2014)
Fields: Labor Economics, Econometrics

**GRIER, KEVIN B.**, Presidential Professor (University of Washington, Ph.D. 1984)
Fields: Economic Growth, Economic Development, Political Economy
**GRIER, ROBIN M.**, Professor (George Mason University, Ph.D. 1995)
Fields: Economic Development, Economic Growth, Latin American Economics

**HARTIGAN, JAMES C.**, Professor (Duke University, Ph.D. 1979)
Fields: International Trade, International Finance, Industrial Organization

**HICKS, DANIEL L.**, Assistant Professor (University of California, Berkley, Ph.D. 2009)
Fields: Economic Development & Growth, Macroeconomics, Marketization

**HOLMES, ALEXANDER**, Regents Professor (SUNY-Binghamton, Ph.D. 1974)
Fields: Human Resources, Urban Economics, Microeconomic Theory

**KEEN, BENJAMIN D.**, Associate Professor (University of Virginia, Ph.D. 2002)
Fields: Monetary Economics, Macroeconomics

**KIM, JAEOH**, Assistant Professor (University of Washington, Ph.D. 2014)
Fields: Empirical Macroeconomics, Bayesian Econometrics, Time Series Econometrics

**KIM, MYONGJIN**, Assistant Professor (Boston University, Ph.D. 2013)
Fields: Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics

**KONDONASSIS, A.J.**, Emeritus Professor (Indiana University, Ph.D. 1961)
Fields: Economic History & Development, Economic Theory, Money & Banking

**KOSMOPOULOU, GEORGIA**, Presidential Professor (University of Illinois, Ph.D. 1996)
Fields: Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization, Information Economics

**Liu, Qihong**, Associate Professor (SUNY – Stony Brook, Ph.D. 2003)
Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics

**MITRA, APARNA**, Associate Professor (University of Texas, Ph.D. 1995)
Fields: Labor Economics, Development Economics

**NEDELESCU, DANIEL**, Lecturer (Purdue University, Ph.D. 2013)
Fields: Industrial Organization, Labor Economics, Experimental Economics

**ROGERS, CYNTHIA**, Associate Professor (University of Pittsburgh, Ph.D. 1994)
Fields: Public Economics, Regional & Urban Economics, Labor Economics

**TABRIZY, SALEH**, Visiting Assistant Professor (Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Ph.D. 2015)
Fields: International Trade, International Finance, Innovation and Growth

**WEINBERGER, ARIEL**, Assistant Professor (University of California, Davis, Ph.D. 2015)
Fields: International Trade, Macroeconomics