ECONOMICS (PH.D.)

Description

Admission to the doctoral program is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional promise in economics. Students pursue the Ph.D. for various reasons, including wanting to make research contributions to the field and to teach economics at the college level.

The doctoral program encourages students to develop research skills early on through an integrative research experience. A cornerstone of this experience is the department’s weekly research seminar. Students participate in the seminar by writing critical reviews and referee reports on the papers presented, acting as discussants, and presenting their own research.

A distinctive feature of UNH’s doctoral program is its dual emphasis on developing research economists and college teachers.

Cognate in College Teaching

The Ph.D. degree in economics from UNH is a research degree that provides students with a deep understanding of economic theory, institutions, and empirical analysis. Most graduates of the program move into faculty positions at other institutions of higher learning where teaching is an important component of their responsibilities.

In conjunction with the Graduate School’s Teaching Excellence Program, the department has developed a nationally known program that provides formal training in pedagogy for students whose career goals include teaching at the college level. This program, called the Cognate in College Teaching, is an option that Ph.D. students may select in addition to the requirements of the doctoral degree (discussed above). The Cognate is a 13-credit program and is awarded, upon satisfaction of all requirements, concurrently with the Ph.D. The Cognate can only be awarded in conjunction with the Ph.D. and none of the course requirements of the Cognate can be substituted for those of the Ph.D. To enter the program, a student must formally apply to the Graduate Dean after at least one year of full-time graduate studies in economics. Admission to the Cognate is decided by the graduate dean, based upon recommendations of the Economics Graduate Program Coordinator and the Teaching Excellence Program Director.

Requirements

The degree requirements include: nine core courses, two comprehensive theory exams, field courses, two fields of concentration (one major and the other minor), field and research workshops, a major field exam, doctoral dissertation proposal defense and final defense, and proficiency in one foreign language if deemed necessary by the student’s dissertation chair. Candidacy is reached following successful completion of:

1. comprehensive theory examinations in microeconomics and macroeconomics;
2. exam in major field (health economics, environmental economics or international economics);
3. an advisor willing to chair the student’s dissertation committee and a viable dissertation topic.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 908</td>
<td>Environmental Economics: Theory and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 909</td>
<td>Environmental Valuation</td>
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Comprehensive Examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Written evidence of proficiency in economic theory is demonstrated by passing comprehensive examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. These examinations are given twice a year, after term III and at the end of June. Students should sit for both theory examinations after the third term of their second year of study. The Graduate Studies Coordinator conveys information regarding performance in writing. Departmental policy restricts the number of attempts at the comprehensive theory examinations to two per examination. If a student fails a theory comprehensive exam twice, the student may, in the case of extenuating circumstances, petition for a third attempt. The petition must be submitted within 4 weeks of the date that the department notifies the student of his or her second failure. A student who does not show up on a scheduled test date will have the examination counted as one of his or her attempts.

Fields of Concentration

Students must complete the requirements for one major field and one minor field. A student designates his or her major field during Field Workshop (ECON 992) and must have departmental approval to change the major field thereafter.

Environmental Economics

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Graduate Economics Seminar
Students are required to sign up for the Graduate Economics Seminar (ECON 988) in Terms 2, 3, and 4 during their first two years of study.

Research Workshop
Beyond their second year of study, students continue to participate in the department’s weekly seminar by enrolling in two terms of Research Workshop (ECON 996). Research Workshop students present their own research in the research seminar series. They may also serve as discussants for outside speakers and write referee reports for the papers presented. Students must secure a dissertation adviser prior to signing up for their first term of Research Workshop. The research–workshop requirement should be completed by the end of the fifth year of study.

Foreign Language Requirement
Students may need to demonstrate reading knowledge of one foreign language if it is determined to be essential to the student’s area of research by his or her dissertation chair.

Dissertation Proposal Defense
Prior to defending his/her proposal, a student must find a dissertation chair and form a dissertation committee. The dissertation proposal may be defended as part of the Research Workshop or separately from the Workshop.

Final Dissertation Defense
Cognate in College Teaching Requirements
The Cognate in College Teaching offers a series of core and elective courses to prepare individuals to teach at institutions of higher education. The Cognate is available to doctoral students and students in selected master’s degree programs at UNH.

Students must apply and be formally admitted to the program. The Cognate appears as a minor on the student’s transcript, and is awarded concurrently with the Ph.D. or Master’s degree.

This program requires the satisfactory completion of 13 academic credits. Students elect, with the permission of their graduate coordinator, to add the cognate to their graduate degree. The cognate will be awarded at the time of the award of the qualifying graduate degree. Requirements include 12 credits toward developing core competencies and the submission of an electronic teaching portfolio for 1 credit. For more information please visit the Teaching Excellence web site: http://www.unh.edu/teaching excellence/Academic_prog_in_coll_teach/index.html

Elective Course
Beyond the core theory courses and field requirements, students must take one additional graduate course from the department or an approved 800–level class from another department.