

ECONOMICS (PH.D.)

<https://paulcollege.unh.edu/economics/program/phd/economics>

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 a desire to make research contributions to the discipline and to teach economics at the college level.

The STEM designated program is nationally recognized for its dual focus on training research economists and college teachers. No other program provides more individualized mentoring to help students develop as research economists and college teachers. Students develop research skills early on through an integrative research experience. A cornerstone of this experience is the department's weekly research seminar, in which students write critical reviews and referee reports on the papers presented, act as discussants, and present their own research.

UNH's Ph.D. in Economics is a research degree that provides students with a deep understanding of economic theory, institutions, and empirical analysis. Graduates move into faculty positions at other institutions of higher learning. They also pursue careers as professional economists in industry and government.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Requirements include nine core courses, two comprehensive theory exams, field courses, two fields of concentration (one major and the other minor), four semesters of seminar, research workshop, a major field capstone experience, doctoral dissertation proposal defense and final defense. Candidacy is reached following successful completion of:

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

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
ECON 825	Mathematical Economics ¹	4
ECON 976	Microeconomics I	4
ECON 977	Microeconomics II	4
ECON 972	Macroeconomics I	4
ECON 973	Macroeconomics II	4
ECON 926	Econometrics I	4
ECON 927	Econometrics II	4
ECON 928	Econometrics III, Time Series Econometrics	4
ECON 929	Econometrics IV, Advanced Econometrics	4
Research Skills		
ECON 979	Research Skills ²	2
Graduate Economics Seminar		
ECON 988	Graduate Economics Seminar ³	8
Research Workshop		
ECON 996	Research Workshop ⁴	2

Comprehensive Examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Fields of Concentration (one major and one minor)

- ¹ Course is offered in a concentrated manner over 2 weeks at the beginning of the fall semester. It provides the mathematical foundation needed for the fall theory and econometrics classes.
- ² Students begin work on a significant research project under the guidance of a faculty member and the instructor of ECON 979 Research Skills in the second year of study.
- ³ Students are required to sign up for the Graduate Economics Seminar in both fall and spring semesters during their first two years of study for a total of 8 credits.
- ⁴ Beyond their second year of study, students continue to participate in the department's weekly seminar by enrolling in one semester of Research Workshop.

Comprehensive Examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Written evidence of proficiency in economic theory is demonstrated by passing comprehensive examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. To sit for a theory examination, students must have passed (B- or higher) the first-year required theory courses. Students should take both theory examinations at the end of their first year of study. Per Graduate School and Departmental policy, the number of attempts at the comprehensive theory examinations is restricted to two per examination. These examinations are given each year in June and, if a second attempt is necessary, in early August. A student who does not show up on a scheduled test date will have the examination counted as one of their attempts.

Fields of Concentration

Students must complete the requirements for one major field and one minor field. A student designates their major field no later than the beginning of the third year of study and must have departmental approval to change the major field thereafter.

Environmental Economics

Code	Title	Credits
Major Field Course Requirements		
ECON 908	Environmental Economics: Theory and Policy	4
ECON 909	Environmental Valuation	4
Minor Field Course Requirements		
ECON 908	Environmental Economics: Theory and Policy	4
ECON 909	Environmental Valuation	4

Health Economics

Code	Title	Credits
Major Field Course Requirements		
ECON 941	Empirical Analysis in Health Economics	4
ECON 942	Theoretical Analysis in Health Economics	4
Minor Field Course Requirements		
ECON 941	Empirical Analysis in Health Economics	4
ECON 942	Theoretical Analysis in Health Economics	4

International Economics

Code	Title	Credits
Major Field Course Requirements		
ECON 945	International Trade	4
ECON 946	Open Economy Macroeconomics	4
Minor Field Course Requirements		

ECON 945	International Trade	4
ECON 946	Open Economy Macroeconomics	4

Capstone Experience in Major Field

Students must write an original research paper in their field area under the supervision of the faculty teaching the field courses. This paper may also be used to fulfill the ECON 979 Research Skills requirement for the 2nd or 3rd year paper.

Graduate Economics Seminar

Students are required to sign up for the Graduate Economics Seminar (ECON 988) in both semesters during each of their first two years of study.

Research Skills

In the ECON 979 Research Skills course, students pursue a significant research project under the guidance of a faculty member and the class instructor. Students are expected to complete a research paper and present it in class.

The course is normally taken in a student's second year of study. Students also present their research in a conference-style format in their third year of study, typically in the department's graduate seminar series. The presentation may involve either a *significant* extension of their second-year paper from ECON 979 Research Skills or a new research project. The third-year presentation requirement may satisfy the presentation requirement for ECON 996 Research Workshop.

Research Workshop

Beyond their second year of study, students continue to participate in the department's weekly seminar by enrolling in one semester of Research Workshop (ECON 996). Research Workshop students present their own research in the research seminar series. Students should secure a dissertation adviser prior to signing up for their Research Workshop. The research workshop requirement should be completed by the end of the fifth year of study.

Dissertation Proposal Defense

Prior to defending their 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

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate a deep understanding in the three core fields of Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics).
- Students will gain expertise in their major field of study (Environmental Economics, Health Economics, or International Economics).
- Students will produce original and independent research that makes theoretical and/or empirical contributions to one or more existing literatures.

- Students will be able to analyze relevant data sets using appropriate econometric methods.
- Students will produce research papers that meet a professional standard in terms of clarity of thought and effective organization.
- Students will demonstrate strong skills in presenting their research in professional settings.