

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PROGRAM  
POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE IN ECONOMICS**

## Admission

Applicants will be admitted to the program based upon enrollment availability and their abilities relative to other candidates. The following are the minimum requirements

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- Applicants must have a minimum GRE Quantitative score of 156.
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- For non-native English speakers an officially reported minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based test) or 100 (IBT) or 7.0 IELTS.
- A written statement of goals and objectives, including a statement that clearly identifies the applicant's interest in the program.
- Coursework in microeconomics and macroeconomics at the intermediate level or above and in statistics and mathematics (multivariate calculus) is expected. Otherwise qualified students who lack this background may be directed to appropriate coursework to remedy this deficiency.

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet stated requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths. Admission decisions are made by the Department of Economics Graduate Committee and are based upon a number of factors, including the applicant's GRE scores, college transcripts, application essays and letters of recommendation.

## Academic

### **Degree Requirements:**

Students in the Ph.D. program in Economics complete coursework in Economics as outlined below. Students without prior graduate work in economics must complete the requirements of our M.S. in economics and applied econometrics (30 credits) in addition to satisfying the requirements for the Ph.D. (26 credits). Students will be awarded both degrees upon completion of the requirements. Although a student cannot use credit earned for another degree to earn a master's degree in economics at the University of Delaware, some of these credits may reduce the overall number of credits needed to complete the Ph.D. degree. If a student has completed a master's degree in economics at another comparable university, it is possible that the student may only need to complete the remaining 26 credits (including 9-credit thesis) at the University of Delaware. However, since master's degrees do not always include comparable courses at a comparable level of rigor, the Graduate Committee must evaluate each student's record on an individual basis. Courses granted equivalency substitute for required course credits for our M.S. in Economics and Applied Econometrics. Equivalency is granted only when a student provides evidence (for example, copies of course syllabi and exams) that a course is fully equivalent to one required for the M.S. in Economics and Applied Econometrics and that mastery of the material has been achieved. The Graduate Committee has sole authority to award equivalency.

The following is a summary of the course and credit requirements for the M.S. in Economics and Applied Econometrics.

Mathematics: ECON810	3
Economic Theory: ECON811 and ECON812	6
Econometrics: ECON822, ECON823 and at least one of the following: ECON804, ECON824 or ECON825	9
Electives: Graduate-level courses approved by the Graduate Committee	12
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS</b>	<b>30</b>

Required courses in the PhD program (in addition to those listed above for the MS degree) are:

Economic Theory: ECON813 and ECON814	6
Econometrics: ECON824 or ECON825 if not taken as part of MS degree, else an elective to be chosen from graduate-level courses with approval of the Graduate Committee	3
Dissertation Workshop: ECON850 (two consecutive semesters of 1 credit)	2
Topics Field Courses (at least two)	6
Dissertation (ECON969)	9
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS (in addition to MS or MS equivalence)</b>	<b>26</b>

**Seminar Requirement:**

All students must register for and attend ECON890 (zero credit course) and meet established participation requirements.

**Preliminary Examination and Third-Year Paper Requirements:**

Students must pass preliminary examinations in both Microeconomic and Macroeconomic theory. Students are required to take these exams when first offered (see schedule below) after completion of ECON813 (Microeconomics) and ECON814 (Macroeconomics). Students who do not pass an examination on the first attempt may retake it one additional time. Continuation in the program is contingent on passing these examinations.

A student has a maximum of two attempts to pass each of the two examinations. If necessary, an examination must be retaken the first time the examination is offered. A missed attempt reduces the number of available attempts.

Students must also complete a third-year paper. The paper is graded as pass or fail. Students must receive a grade of pass to continue in the program.

Microeconomics and Macroeconomics examinations will be administered according to the following schedule:

Last Thursday in June	Microeconomics	Macroeconomics retake
Last Thursday before fall classes	Microeconomics retake	
Last Thursday before Spring classes		Macroeconomics

**Program Administration:** The Ph.D. program is administered by the department’s Graduate Committee under the direction of the Director of Graduate Programs. The committee consists of members of the departmental faculty appointed for one-year, renewable terms by the departmental Chairperson. This committee is charged with recruiting students to the program, making admissions and funding decisions, and assuring that the program is administered in accordance with this policy document.

**Graduate Program Faculty:** The graduate program faculty includes all full-time, Department of Economics faculty of the rank of assistant professor or above. Part-time faculty and faculty with joint appointments may be included at the discretion of the Chairperson, Department of Economics.

**Requirements for Graduation:** Students must meet the University’s full-time residency requirement of at least one continuous academic year consisting of at least nine credits per semester and must complete their degree within the time limit established by the University. The University of Delaware Graduate catalog provides guidelines governing a possible extension of the time limit for circumstances beyond a student’s control.

### **Degree Completion:**

Admission to Ph.D. Candidacy:

Procedures for admission to Ph.D. candidacy are as specified by the Graduate College in the graduate catalog. Admission to candidacy must be obtained before the deadlines specified in the graduate catalog calendar. Responsibility for seeing that admission is secured at the proper time rests with the student, but must include the recommendation of the student’s dissertation committee and the chairperson of the department.

Doctoral Dissertation:

#### A. Dissertation Proposal

1. It is the responsibility of the student to form a Ph.D. dissertation committee. The composition of the dissertation committee must be approved by the Graduate Committee and be in accordance with the provisions listed in the University of Delaware Graduate catalog.
2. Faculty with joint appointments in the Department of Economics can serve as outside members of dissertation committees.
3. Upon obtaining the written consent of the Department Chairperson, the student must notify the University Administrator of Graduate College in writing of the composition of the committee.

4. Overlap in membership between the Department's Graduate Committee and the dissertation committee does not require those involved to disqualify themselves for respective action.
5. Students who have completed all required course work but who have not been admitted to candidacy can register for Pre-Candidacy Study (ECON 964). However, no more than three credits of ECON 964 accomplished prior to admission to candidacy can be applied toward the dissertation.
6. The student must make an oral defense of approximately one hour of a written dissertation proposal before the student's dissertation committee. The length and content of the written proposal is determined by the Chairperson of the dissertation committee. To be approved, the proposal must receive the unanimous support of the committee members. The Graduate Committee reviews all cases of students who do not pass the oral defense to determine whether or not the student is making sufficient progress to justify continuation in the doctoral program.
7. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal by the committee, the student shall provide one copy of the proposal for his or her file in the department office. The proposal is to be signed by all members of the committee. The chairperson of the dissertation committee will also notify the University Administrator of Graduate College, who admits the student to formal candidacy. (Consult graduate catalog for specific time schedule for admission to formal candidacy).

#### B. The Dissertation

1. Changes in the membership of the dissertation committee require the approval of the Graduate Committee.
2. The bibliographic form and style of the dissertation must conform to expectations of the Graduate College.
3. Copies of the Dissertation:
  - a. a final version must be submitted electronically as a PDF for the departmental archives;
  - b. others as required by the Graduate College; students should consult with the Graduate College regarding dissertation guidelines.

#### C. Oral Defense of Dissertation

1. All other requirements for the degree must be completed before the oral defense of dissertation is scheduled.
2. The chairperson of the dissertation committee shall be responsible for

- scheduling the defense and for notifying the faculty and the University Administrator of Graduate College three (3) weeks prior to the defense.
3. The dissertation defense is administered by the dissertation committee.
  4. The oral defense is open to the public, but the right to vote is reserved to the dissertation committee
  5. Grading is on a pass or fail basis. A majority vote is required for any action. If a “conditional pass” is given, those conditions which must be met for passing the oral defense must be documented in writing. The Graduate Committee reviews all cases of students who do not pass the oral defense to determine whether or not the student is making sufficient progress to justify continuation in the doctoral program.
  6. It is the responsibility of the chairperson of the dissertation committee to notify the Director of Graduate Studies and the University Administrator of Graduate College of the decision of the dissertation committee.

**Timeline for Normal Progress:**

Note: of the six electives listed below at least two need to be Topics Field Courses.

Year one:

- Successfully complete the math boot camp offered during the summer before the fall semester.
- Fall: Econ 810, 811 and 822
- Spring: Econ 812, 813 and 823
- Summer: Microeconomics preliminary exam

Year two:

- Fall: Econ 814, 824 or 825 plus one elective
- Spring: Macroeconomics preliminary exam (first attempt February), Econ 890 plus three electives
- Summer: Macroeconomics preliminary exam (if failed first attempt)
- Note that Econ 824 or 825 must be taken during the second year. However, the semester in which these courses are offered may be fall or spring.

Year three:

- Fall: Econ 850 plus 3 electives
- Spring: Econ 850 plus third-year paper topic approved.
- By end of third year (summer), students should aim to have a topic, main advisor, dissertation committee and successfully defended a dissertation proposal.

Year four:

- Fall: submit third-year paper due on first day of classes, work on dissertation and present in Economics Ph.D. Research Symposium.
- Spring: work on dissertation and present in Economics Ph.D. Research Symposium.
- Summer: work on dissertation.

Year five:

- Fall: job market preparation, work on dissertation and present in Economics Ph.D. Research Symposium. If research position is sought, a full seminar presentation should be scheduled.
- Spring: finish dissertation and successfully defend.

**Dismissal Policy:** The Department of Economics adheres to the University policy for termination of doctoral students with the following specific exceptions. Students must terminate their studies for the doctorate if they are unable to pass either of the preliminary examinations (Microeconomics and Macroeconomics) after two attempts, are unable to pass the third-year paper or if they fail to make sufficient progress as determined on an individual basis by the Graduate Committee. If in the opinion of the Graduate Committee the student is not making satisfactory progress, the student and the student's advisor will be notified. The student will have the opportunity to meet with the Director of Graduate Programs to discuss the Committee's actions. Possible outcomes of this action include reassignment of the student to another faculty advisor or termination of the student from the graduate program.

**Waiver Policy:** Students who seek a waiver of any of the above-mentioned policies must do so in writing to the Graduate Committee.

## Financial Aid

**Graduate Student Funding and Time Limits:** Graduate student financial support comes from both University and non-university sources. Faculty graduate advisors are not obliged to provide financial support to students, nor does the Department of Economics guarantee financial support for the duration of a student's program.

Financial aid is awarded on the basis of merit within the defined programs of study by the Department Chairperson. Graduate students under contract are reviewed each semester for academic standing and progress toward the degree. Subject to limits imposed by available funds, the Department attempts to continue to support those Ph.D. students progressing satisfactorily through completion of the normal degree period of three semesters for the Master of Science in Economics and Applied Econometrics degree and three and a half additional years for completion of the Ph.D. degree. Except for valid extenuating circumstances, financial support will not continue beyond this period.