The Ph.D. program prepares students for teaching and research positions in colleges and universities, in government service, in research institutions, and in business and other private organizations.

The program emphasizes the development of research skills. Students actively engage in research at an early stage in their studies. In the summer after the first year, students work on research topics of their own choosing. After their second year field courses, they must write a substantial research paper in order to be admitted to candidacy. The Department encourages students to participate in professional meetings through competitive Madelyn Lockhart Travel Awards. When it comes time to interview for jobs, our students are well-prepared to present seminars and often have already published in professional economics journals.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The decision to enter the Ph.D. program represents a major commitment of time and effort by both the student and the faculty. As a result, admission to the program is highly selective. The Department's Graduate Committee assesses each applicant's interest in graduate study, interest in reviewing and conducting research, demonstrated intellectual capacity, and motivation to succeed in the program. This assessment is based on academic performance in prior undergraduate and graduate courses, scores on the Graduate Record Examination, letters of recommendation, and the applicant's statement about his/her interests in graduate study.

Applicants usually have a bachelor's degree in Economics, but this is not a prerequisite. Students with undergraduate degrees in mathematics, engineering, and the physical sciences often enter and succeed in the program. Some course work in economics including both intermediate micro- and macroeconomics is required prior to starting the program. All applicants need an excellent working knowledge of mathematics and basic statistics, so must have completed at least two semesters of calculus and one semester of statistics. Almost all students accepted in recent years have had additional mathematical preparation. It is strongly recommended that students take linear algebra, differential equations, and real analysis before enrolling in the Ph.D. program.

The University requires applicants to submit official GRE scores and official transcripts from every postsecondary institution attended. The applicant must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) for the last two years of undergraduate study. In addition, applicants who have not attended a college or university in a country where English is the official language for at least one academic year are required to have at least a score of 550 on the paper test or 80 on the internet version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Any student who has taken the TOEFL exam should report the score as part of his/her application. While we do not require the Test of Spoken English for any applicants, any student who has taken the test should also report that score. Alternative exams to the TOEFL include IELTS (International English Language Testing System: 6), MELAB (Michigan English Language Assessment
Battery:77) or successful completion of the University of Florida English Language Institute program. The University code for test score submission is 5812.

Beyond the University of Florida requirements, the Department of Economics does not set additional requirements for admission, however most students in our program have qualifications well in excess of the minimums above. For example for the students entering our Ph.D. program in Fall 2016 with financial support:

1. Verbal scores ranged from 142 to 170 with an average of 157.
2. Quantitative scores ranged from 158 to 168 with an average of 164.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

**APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID**

In an attempt to make the best use of our limited resources and, at the same time, provide our students the best course offerings possible, the Department of Economics has decided only to admit a graduate class every other year. The Department will carry out its next admission process for the 2018-2019 year.

The application process is to be completed online. You must also arrange to have an official report of your GRE scores and two copies of your official transcript from every college or university you have attended sent to the Admissions Office. Transcripts for studies unrelated to economics are also required. Failure to provide all transcripts can delay admission indefinitely.

You should ask three faculty members who are familiar with your academic work and your potential for graduate study to send letters of recommendation through the online application process.

Email a list and description of all mathematics and statistics courses on your transcripts to shawml@ufl.edu.

Applications for all types of financial aid and all supporting documents -- official GRE scores, official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and student's statement -- must be received by February 15 to receive full consideration for financial assistance. The deadline for McKnight fellowships, however, is earlier -- January 15. After February 15, applications will be considered if funds are available. Announcements of assistantship awards are usually made by the end of March.

**Ph.D. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Ph.D. in Economics is earned by completing specific course, residence, and research skills requirements; writing a satisfactory research paper at the end of the second year; passing the Ph.D. qualifying examinations; and preparing and defending an acceptable dissertation. The program is designed so that it can, under normal progress, be completed in four to five academic years after the bachelor’s degree. In rare cases, a student could finish in three years. Most students benefit from taking a fifth year which has become widespread across Economics PhD programs. Although we do not guarantee funding for more than four years, financial support after that is often available by the Department hiring advanced PhD students to teach undergraduate courses.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students entering the program must fulfill the departmental requirements described below. A total of 90 credits beyond the B.A. are required with at least 60 of those taken in residence at UF. Students who have received a Masters degree at another program can transfer a maximum of 30 credits to count toward these 90 hours although the specific courses they have taken do not replace the Department’s course requirements. For normal and satisfactory progress, first-year students must take a core set of required courses, while second-year students must take a minimum of three three-credit field courses in each semester. Advanced courses in statistics, mathematics, computer science, and other social sciences are generally approved in summer semesters and later years of study.

FIRST YEAR REQUIREMENTS

The common core curriculum required of all students in the first year is the following:

- ECO 7408 (Fall) Mathematical Methods (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7404 (Fall) Game Theory (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7415 (Fall) Statistical Methods in Economics
- ECO 7115 or 7938 (Fall) Microeconomic Theory I
- ECO 7938 (Fall) Practical Computing in Economics (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7938 (Fall) Topics in Micro (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7206 (Spring) Macroeconomic Theory I
- ECO 7424 or 7938 (Spring) Econometric Models and Methods
- ECO 7113 (Spring) Information Economics (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7120 (Spring) General Equilibrium and Welfare Economics (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7938 (Spring) Imperfect Competition (1/2 semester)
- ECO 7452 (Spring) Best Empirical Practices (1/2 semester)

All of these core courses must be completed in the first year and provide crucial skills and techniques that students must master to be able to advance to taking second year field courses and to becoming professional economists. Students can demonstrate that they have mastered this material in one of two ways. The first is by attaining a GPA of at least 3.5 in the first year core. The second way is for students who do not reach this GPA. They can take a qualifying exam in the summer after the first year. This exam can cover any material in the first year core and students will be given a list of topics to study in preparation for the exam. Any student who does not pass this exam on the first attempt is allowed to do a retake later in the summer. The first exam will be given at the end of May or beginning of June.
SECOND YEAR REQUIREMENT

In the second year, students must complete the required courses in 3 fields. The following four fields are scheduled to be offered in the second year:

Econometrics
Industrial Organization
International Economics
Public Economics

After completing the field courses, written field examinations are taken in two of the three fields. These field exams form the written part of the University required PhD qualifying exams. The initial exam period is in May/June after the end of the Spring term of the second year. There is a second examination period in August for those who failed one exam in the first period or who had not met the requirements to take it at that time.

RESEARCH

While learning economics is important, the most important component of the program is learning how to do research. The Department encourages students to get into research early in the program. In the summer after the first year, students are required to do a research paper directly under the supervision of a faculty member. There are different options of what a student can do for this requirement. One possibility that is highly encouraged is to work as an “apprentice” on a topic chosen by a faculty member and see how research is done from selecting a topic to doing a literature review to carrying out the analysis and finally to writing up the finished product. If possible, this will lead to a published joint paper between the student and the faculty member. During the course of the first year, students will consult with the Graduate Coordinator who will help match them with faculty in their area of interest.

During the summer after the second year when the student has completed taking written exams, each student works on a second research paper. While still working closely with faculty, the student is expected to be more independent in doing the work including being responsible for selecting an interesting topic of their own, working through the details of deriving valid theoretical or empirical conclusions, and writing the work up in a professional manner. The goal is for the student to prepare a paper of sufficient quality to demonstrate an ability to engage in Ph.D. level research. This paper may be a preliminary investigation of the student’s dissertation topic, the first essay of the dissertation, or it may be a self-contained paper which is not part of the dissertation. It must entail original research and may not be simply a survey of existing literature. Therefore, the second year paper should not be joint work with another student or faculty member. To help in developing this paper, all students must enroll in ECO 7925, Research Skills Workshop, during the Summer B term after the second year. In this workshop, students will interact with each other and with faculty in selecting and developing their topic.

After completion of the paper, there is an oral defense conducted by the student’s supervisory committee. This defense is the oral part of the University required PhD qualifying exam and after passing it, the student is admitted to candidacy.
After admission to candidacy, students begin work on their dissertations. A dissertation may incorporate or build on the second year paper or may be entirely different in topic. Whatever direction is taken should be done in consultation with the Supervisory Committee, and especially its Chair who now has primary responsibility for guiding the student’s research. A dissertation may be a single coherent work or may be a set of loosely related or even unrelated essays. The three essay dissertation has become quite widespread as the standard in economics. The main advantage is that students have a head start in publishing journal articles since independent essays can be easily modified for submission to journals for publication. After submission of the dissertation, the candidate will be given a final oral examination by the Supervisory Committee.

TEACHING

The Department considers that teaching is an essential part of every student’s Ph.D. program. Students must be able to convey what they have learned to others. In addition, preparing material to teach is one of the best ways to ensure mastery over it. All students, whatever their funding status, will teach at least one section during their program. This will be after admission to candidacy, so summer after the 3rd year will usually be the earliest a student can teach. Students on regular funding may receive additional teaching assignments as part of their assistantship requirements. Especially for those students seeking academic positions, having good teaching evaluations before going on the job market can be crucial in finding a job.

FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

Proficiency in speaking and writing English is crucial to writing an acceptable dissertation, communicating effectively with one’s supervisory committee, and in meeting the teaching requirements. After graduation, English skills remain important. The Graduate School requires all teaching assistants from foreign countries who interact with students to take the SPEAK test (Test of Spoken English). A student who has not passed the SPEAK test by the time he/she is to teach may be ineligible to continue to hold an assistantship. In order for a nonnative-English speaker to be appointed to any type of Graduate Assistantship that involves teaching in a classroom or lab, a minimum score is required. Various courses are available or required for a student depending upon what score he or she received.

DEPARTMENTAL PRACTICES

In addition to the formal requirements listed above, the Department encourages certain practices by students which it believes will enhance their professional development. Each student’s progress in the program is evaluated at the end of each year by the Department’s Graduate Committee which, in addition to considering whether a student is meeting the formal requirements will, also try to evaluate whether a student is following practices which will ensure success in the program and later in the profession.

STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTIONS

When having difficulty in course work or in research, students are often reluctant to contact faculty. This is actually a widespread problem across academic disciplines and has been named the “perfectionism problem”. Our faculty encourages ongoing interaction with graduate students. Faculty members feel that it is their role to help graduate students advance in both classes and
research. A dissertation advisor is there to give advice, not simply to sign off on a finished project. Students should not be afraid to seek faculty help when they encounter difficulties. Economics isn’t supposed to be trivial. If it were too easy, being a professional economist would have no value. While willing to help students, faculty members also have expectations that students will be making serious efforts and will respond to faculty suggestions. Graduate students must recognize that graduate study is different from undergraduate study. It isn’t enough to get a high grade in a class and then forget the material that was covered, it is actually important to master the material since it will be used in later classes and research. A student who treats graduate school seriously will be treated seriously by the faculty.

COOPERATION AMONG STUDENTS
The Department encourages cooperation among first-year graduate students. Though good academic performance is required for continuation in the program, first-year students are not competing for a limited number of second-year slots. They should study together and help each other as they go through the initiation into a rigorous professional program. While working together is encouraged, in every course students must follow the rules of the instructor on what is acceptable on any specific assignment or project. This cooperation should continue into the second year and beyond. Students will learn much from discussing their research ideas with each other. In the past, our students have begun interactions with each other that have led to joint publications long after their graduate school days were completed.

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS AND PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS
Research skills are not just developed in courses or in individual work. Faculty and students are actively involved in Department seminars. Seminars provide regular forums for presentations of current research by scholars from UF and other universities and research institutions. Advanced students beyond the second year must participate in seminars. Second-year students are strongly encouraged to attend seminars and first-year students are invited to attend. All students receive announcements about each seminar. Note that there is much that can be learned from seminars in areas that are not someone’s primary area of interest. Techniques and approaches in one area can often be fruitfully applied in another. Students especially can also learn how to present work which will be useful to them later in the job market.

The Department believes that participating in regional or national professional meetings such as the AEA meetings, Econometric Society meetings, Public Choice Society meetings, Midwest Theory and International meetings, Southern Economic Association, American Education Finance Association and other specialty meetings is a useful experience for a student in developing as a professional economist. In addition, such participation will help prepare the student for the job market in later years. Students should submit their second year papers and chapters of their dissertations as they are completed to such meetings. Calls for papers are posted around the Department and by individual faculty members. To encourage participation, Madelyn Lockhart Travel Awards are given to cover any expenses which a student might incur in attending a professional meeting. To be eligible for one of these awards, a student must be admitted to candidacy and be participating in the meeting. The Department tries to fund all such student participation but if the budget is tight, awards will be given on a competitive basis. The Department will try to help support a student who is presenting a paper at a professional meeting before being admitted to candidacy.
**COSTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Annual cost estimates for Graduate students can be found here: [http://www.fa.ufl.edu/bursar/current-tuition-and-fees/](http://www.fa.ufl.edu/bursar/current-tuition-and-fees/)

On campus housing information can be found here: [http://www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/](http://www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/)

Gator Dining Service - a private firm contracting with the University - provides food service in 19 locations on campus. In addition, Gainesville has a wide variety of restaurants and supermarkets in areas convenient to most apartment complexes or neighborhoods. [http://www.gator1.ufl.edu/dining/dining.asp](http://www.gator1.ufl.edu/dining/dining.asp)

**TRANSPORTATION**

The Regional Transit System provides bus service in Gainesville and its urban area. A special mini-bus service is provided for the handicapped. There are free shuttle buses on campus to provide transportation to distant classes. City bus service is FREE throughout Gainesville for all University of Florida faculty, staff, and students. [http://www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/](http://www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/)

**HEALTH CARE**

Student Health Care Service provides a broad range of medical services in the outpatient clinic which include primary medical care, health education, health screening programs, and mental health consultation and counseling.

The University of Florida is pleased to offer individual student health insurance coverage, The GatorGradCare plan, for all eligible graduate students. The insurance is offered at no cost to students on assistantships. Information on GatorGradCare can be found here: [https://www.sid.com/GatorGradCare/](https://www.sid.com/GatorGradCare/)

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Assistantships come with a tuition waiver and require the student to work an average of 13.2 hours per week (one-third time) as a research or teaching assistant to a faculty member. These assistantships, which are awarded for four years, are for the entire academic year including the summer, provided the student enrolls for summer school. A student on a full-year assistantship enrolls for nine hours in the fall and spring semesters of the first year and for six hours in the summer semester. The current stipend is approximately $20,000 per year. Other fees (approximately $82 per credit hour) are the assistantship holder's responsibility.

McKnight Fellowships are awarded to outstanding African-American and Hispanic U.S. citizen students. Up to 50 of these fellowships are awarded to new minority students in Ph.D. programs at universities in the state of Florida each year. McKnight Fellows receive a yearly supplement in addition to a standard assistantship. Note that the application deadline for McKnight Fellowships is January 15.

**THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

Information on the University Community can be found here: [http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/students/gainesville.html](http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/students/gainesville.html)

**THE RECORD OF OUR RECENT GRADUATES**

Information on alumni can be found here: [http://economics.clas.ufl.edu/people/alumni/](http://economics.clas.ufl.edu/people/alumni/)