

# Northwestern

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Department of **Economics**

## **Graduate Student Handbook**

**September 2015**

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This handbook is reissued each summer, and represents the policies and degree requirements of the Department of Economics as of the date on the cover.

The requirements in this document are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, the general degree requirements and the policies on satisfactory progress, probation and exclusion adopted by The Graduate School of Northwestern University.

Updates to the handbook during the academic year will be posted on the Department's website: <http://www.economics.northwestern.edu> under the "Graduate" tab, and in the Department's *Graduate Connection* newsletter which is issued at the beginning of September, December and March.

# Degree Requirements

## M.A. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The department does not normally admit students for a terminal M.A. degree. Doctoral students who complete the ECON 410, ECON 411, ECON 480 sequences with a B average and achieve an "M.A. Pass" on the written qualifying examinations are eligible to receive the M.A. degree. The following requirements apply to students who are enrolled in other doctoral programs and to doctoral students not completing the first-year sequence.

### Coursework Requirements

Courses	Units
<i>Core Courses:</i>	
ECON 410-1 Microeconomics	1
ECON 411-1 Macroeconomic	1
ECON 480-1 Introduction to Econometrics	1
<i>Economic History or Development:</i>	
One of those listed below	1
ECON 315 Topics in Economic History	
ECON 322 Global Economic History	
ECON 323-1,2 Economic History of the United States	
ECON 324 Western Economic History	
ECON 325 Economic Growth and Development	
ECON 326 The Economics of Developing Countries	
ECON 420-1 Advanced Topics in American Economic History	
ECON 420-2 Advanced Topics in European Economic History	
<i>Electives:</i>	
Economics (300 or 400 level) or approved related courses	5
<i>Total Required Units:</i>	9

### Other M.A. Degree Requirements

*Examinations:* final oral examination

*Research/Projects:* none specified

*Master's Thesis:* none

*Other:* paper in one course carrying graduate credit

## Ph.D. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### Coursework Requirements

Courses	Units
<i>Core Courses:</i>	
ECON 410-1,2,3 Microeconomics	3
ECON 411-1,2,3 Macroeconomics	3
ECON 480-1,2,3 Introduction to Econometrics	3
<i>Economic History:</i>	
ECON 420-1 Advanced Topics in American Economic History (or)	1
ECON 420-2 Advanced Topics in European Economic History	
<i>Field Sequences:</i>	
Three two-quarter sequences	6
<i>Total Required Units:</i>	16

## Other Ph.D. Degree Requirements

*Examinations:* preliminary examinations in economic theory (microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics); oral examination for approval of dissertation prospectus

*Research/Projects:* two research papers presented in the student seminar (ECON 501) or equivalent

*Ph.D. Dissertation:* original, independent research

*Final Evaluations:* oral dissertation defense

*Supervised Teaching Experience:* All doctoral students are required to act as a teaching assistant for at least one quarter. As part of these duties, the student must lead a weekly discussion section. Teaching experience is an essential part of graduate training. Foreign students must demonstrate acceptable English proficiency as prescribed by The Graduate School. Evaluations are made and kept as part of the students' record.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

This section summarizes important deadlines and criteria for maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress can lead to being placed on probation by The Graduate School (TGS) and ultimate exclusion (dismissal) from the program and Northwestern University. This page should be read in conjunction with the general degree requirements and the policies on satisfactory progress, probation and exclusion of The Graduate School.

### M.A. DEGREE

**Program length:** Master's students must complete all requirements for the master's degree within five years of initial registration in TGS. Students who do not complete degree requirements by the established deadlines will not be considered in good academic standing, will not be eligible for financial aid and will be subject to TGS 513 (advanced continuous registration). Students may submit a petition to extend the degree deadline, but those students will not be eligible for financial aid and will be subject to TGS 513.

**Grades and cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):** A student whose overall grade average is below B (3.0 GPA) or who has more than three incomplete (Y or X) grades is not making satisfactory academic progress and will be placed on probation by TGS.

### Ph.D. DEGREE

**Program length:** Doctoral students must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. within nine years of initial registration in TGS. Students who do not complete degree requirements by the established deadlines will not be considered in good academic standing, will not be eligible for financial aid and will be subject to TGS 513 (advanced continuous registration). Students may submit a petition to extend the degree deadline, but those students will not be eligible for financial aid and will be subject to TGS 513.

**Grades and cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA):** A student whose overall grade average is below B (3.0 GPA) or who has more than three incomplete (Y or X) grades is not making satisfactory academic progress and will be placed on probation by TGS.

**Candidacy.** Effective with the entering class of 2013, doctoral students must be admitted to candidacy (demonstrated competency in the three core areas of econometrics, microeconomics and econometrics) by the end of their first year. The process for demonstrating competence is described in the *Goals for First Year Graduate Students* section. Students failing to demonstrate competence will be excluded from the PhD program and from Northwestern University as of the final day of the Summer Quarter at the end of their First Year. (However, an "M.A. Pass" is also obtainable on the written preliminary examinations. It is sufficient for filing for a Masters Degree if the Economics 410, 411 and 480 sequences have been completed with a 3.00 grade point average, but it is not sufficient for staying in the Ph.D. program.)

**Dissertation Prospectus (entering class of 2013 and earlier):** Students must have completed the taught course component of Ph.D. degree and had their prospectus (dissertation proposal) approved by their committee no later than the end of their fourth year of study, which falls on the last date of the 16th quarter of study. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the Winter Quarter in their fifth year of study (last date of the 18th quarter of study), will be excluded (dismissed) from the program and Northwestern University.

**Dissertation Prospectus (entering class of 2014 and later):** Students must have completed the taught course component of Ph.D. degree and had their prospectus (dissertation proposal) approved by their committee no later than the end of the Fall Quarter in their fourth year of study, which falls on the last date of the 13th quarter of study. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the Spring Quarter in their fourth year of study (last date of the 15th quarter of study), will be excluded (dismissed) from the program and Northwestern University.

**Good Progress on Dissertation:** Students in their fifth year and above must be certified as making "good progress" on their dissertation by July 31 at the end of each year. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the following Winter Quarter, will be excluded (dismissed) from the program and Northwestern University.

## Goals for First Year Graduate Students

### CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In their first year, graduate students are required to take the following courses:

- Economics 401 *Mathematical Methods for Economic Theory*
- Economics 410-1,2,3 *Microeconomics*
- Economics 411-1,2,3 *Macroeconomics*
- Economics 480-1,2,3 *Introduction to Econometrics*

You do not formally register for Economics 401 which is held prior to the start of the Fall Quarter. For the other courses you must register for a letter grade.

During the Summer Quarter at the end of your first year, students receiving a University Fellowship will register for three units of Economics 590 on a pass/no credit (P/N) basis to maintain their full-time student status. Students who are not receiving University Fellowships need not register in the Summer Quarter. However, such students who need to register for immigration, external funding, or student loan purposes can register for TGS 512 "Continuous Registration."

## ADDITIONAL MATH TRAINING

Registering for Economics 410, 411 and 480 each quarter is sufficient for you to be regarded as a full time student. However, we recommend that students who have not taken math through real analysis before entering Northwestern should seriously consider taking an additional math course. For those who feel they need to take an additional course to improve their mathematical skills, the Department strongly recommends taking the Math Department's undergraduate *Real Analysis* course (Math 320-1) as a fourth course in the fall quarter. This course continues in the winter and spring quarters. This is a matter to discuss with your Advisor. Students with stronger mathematical backgrounds might consider the graduate level *Foundations of Modern Analysis* (Math 410-1,2,3). Some students have found that the optimization classes in the Managerial Economics and Decision Sciences Department (such as MECS 460-1) are useful. You can elect to take these courses using the pass/no credit (P/N) option, providing the course allows this option.

## DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE IN THE THREE CORE AREAS

In order to be admitted to the second year of the Ph.D. program, students must demonstrate that they have achieved competence in the three core areas of study: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics.

Students can demonstrate competence in several ways:

1. By achieving a 3.60 grade point average across all three quarters in a particular area, the student has demonstrated competence in that area;
2. By passing the written preliminary examination in an area, the student has demonstrated competence in that area.
3. Students who demonstrate competency in only one or two areas according to one of the above two criteria may nonetheless be determined to have achieved competence in all areas based on an overall evaluation of their performance in course work and preliminary examinations in all areas. Strong mastery of at least one area (as evidenced by course work and/or the area preliminary examination) will be treated as a positive factor in such an evaluation.

The written preliminary examinations are held in mid- to late-July at the end of the student's first year. (Students cannot attempt the preliminary examinations in the summer prior to their admission to the program.) Dates for the current year preliminary examinations are given in the *Graduate Connection* newsletter. Students will be informed whether they have demonstrated competency in all three areas of study by mid-August.

There is also an appeals process, which can be initiated by a faculty member. Students will be notified of the outcome of any appeal before the start of the Fall Quarter.

An "M.A. Pass" is also obtainable on the written preliminary examinations. It is sufficient for a Masters Degree if the Economics 410, 411 and 480 sequences have been completed with a 3.00 grade point average, but it is not sufficient for staying in the Ph.D. program.

Preliminary examinations for recent years are available through our website. A username and password are required. Please contact the Graduate Program Coordinator if you have forgotten these.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

The primary source of funding for graduate students in the second through fifth years is as a Teaching Assistant (TA). To serve as a TA, students must demonstrate proficiency in spoken English. This can occur in a number of ways:

- Students whose countries of origin are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom or the United States are exempt from demonstrating proficiency in spoken English.
- Students from other countries who scored 26 or higher (out of a possible 30) on the Speaking Section of the TOEFL Internet-based test taken prior to entry to Northwestern will have demonstrated proficiency in spoken English.
- All other students will be required to take the Versant English Test which will be administered soon after arrival at Northwestern in the weeks prior to the start of the Fall Quarter. Students must score at least 65 (out of a possible 80) on the Versant English Test to be eligible to be a TA.

Students who fail to pass the test will receive information on English as a Second Language (ESL) programs offered by the Graduate School. Students then have several options to demonstrate proficiency in spoken English:

- Retake the Versant English Test and score 65 or higher (out of a possible 80).
- Retake the Versant English Test and score 63 or 64 on two separate occasions. The tests with these scores need not be consecutive.
- Take the SPEAK test and score 50 or higher (out of a possible 60).
- Enroll in Linguistics 480 *The Language of Teaching and Teachers* and demonstrate the required level of English proficiency during the face-to-face teaching demonstration required as part of this course.

Please take meeting the language requirement seriously. If the Department has not received notification of satisfactory demonstration of proficiency by July 31, at the end of the first year, the student cannot be funded as a Teaching Assistant in their second year. This is a rigid Graduate School requirement, beyond the Department's control. The Department has a policy of not asking for waivers of this requirement. Otherwise qualified students have been denied Teaching Assistant funding in the past because they have not passed the language requirement.

Even students who are expecting to receive outside funding in their second year (for example, from a foreign government) are advised to meet this requirement as soon as possible during the first year. Outside funding rarely lasts for a student's full career at Northwestern, and passing the language requirement is a prerequisite for asking for Departmental financial aid in future years. Moreover, the University has a policy that students' must serve as a Teaching Assistant for at least one quarter during their time at Northwestern.

# Goals for Second and Third Year Graduate Students

## ECONOMIC HISTORY REQUIREMENT

Students must take either Economics 420-1 *Advanced Topics in American Economic History* or 420-1 *Advanced Topics in European Economic History* for a **letter grade**. In some years, additional economic history courses may be scheduled as Economics 498 *Advanced Topics in Economics*. The director of Graduate Studies will announce in the *Graduate Connection* newsletter if these courses meet the economic history requirement. Typically, Economic History courses are partially evaluated by the writing of a research paper. Students have one calendar year after taking the course to submit the paper.

## COURSES IN THREE FIELDS

Completion of a field consists of taking and passing a two-quarter sequence of courses for **letter grades**. You must complete three different fields.

The Economics Department offers a number of field sequences:

- Economics 412-1,2,3 *Economic Theory and Methods* (any two courses counts as a sequence)
- Economics 414-1,2,3 *Economics of Information* (414-1 with either 414-2 or 414-3 counts as a sequence)
- Economics 415-1,2 *Advanced Microeconomics*  
*Note that students can only take a maximum of two of the 412, 414 and 415 sequences as fields. (However, they are welcome to audit additional microeconomic theory classes.)*
- Economics 416-1,2,3 *Advanced Macroeconomics* (any two courses counts as a sequence)
- Economics 420-1,2 *Economic History* (students may elect to exceed the Department's Economic History requirement and take Economic History as a primary field. If so, they must write a research paper in both courses, but can only present a maximum of one paper in the Economics 501 seminar)
- Economics 425-1,2,3 *Theory of Economic Development* (any two courses counts as a sequence)
- Economics 436-1,2 *Theory and Practice of Public Finance* (any two courses counts as a sequence)
- Economics 440-1,2,3 *Economics of the Labor Market* (440-1 with either 440-2 or 440-3 counts as a sequence)
- Economics 450-1,2,3 *Industrial Organization and Prices* (450-1 with either 450-2 or 450-3 counts as a sequence)
- Economics 460-1,2,3 *International Economics* (any two courses counts as a sequence)
- Economics 481-1,2,3 *Econometrics* (any two courses, or in combination with Economics 482 *Applied Econometrics: Time Series Methods* or Economics 483 *Applied Econometrics: Cross Sectional Methods*, counts as a sequence).  
*Note that with the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, it is possible to obtain two fields in econometrics, one in theoretical econometrics and one in applied econometrics. Please discuss the individual courses that would form each of the sequences with the Director of Graduate Studies in advance.*

The Director of Graduate Studies has the ability to approve additional sequences from courses offered as Economics 498 *Advanced Topics in Economics* or from doctoral courses offered by the Departments of Finance, Managerial Economics and Decision Sciences, and Strategy in the Kellogg School of Management. More unusually, doctoral courses offered elsewhere in the University may be counted at the discretion of the Director. In all cases, the student should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies prior to undertaking a proposed sequence.

### **Departmental Policy on Incomplete Grades**

The Graduate School defines an incomplete grade as follows: "A grade of Y is given when a student does not submit all assigned work in a course; a grade of X is given when a student fails to take the final examination. All X or Y grades are incompletes and must be made up within one calendar year of the date the grade is incurred, ...; after one calendar year, the X or Y becomes a permanent grade on the record." Moreover, "[a] student whose overall grade average is below B or who has more than one incomplete grade or who fails to make progress toward the degree in accordance with the requirements adopted by the Graduate Faculty is not meeting academic standards."

Students who are not in "Good Academic Standing" are unable to receive financial aid, and receive warning letters from the Graduate School. The Department implemented the Economics 501 seminar in the mid-1990s to provide a forum for presenting papers. Consequently, faculty are expected to limit field course assignments to those which are expected to be completed during the quarter the course is offered. In addition to the usual examinations, homework assignments and "referee reports," it was felt to be especially useful if faculty required students to prepare an "outline" or "prospectus" for a paper. The objective is to avoid the needless accumulation of incomplete grades that frequently cause students to be reprimanded by the Graduate School.

There are only two exceptions to this policy. First the History requirement (Economics 420) can assign an incomplete grade for 12 months to permit completion of a history paper which is outside of the Economics 501 seminar. Second, econometrics courses can assign an incomplete only until the end of the vacation period following the quarter the class is in.

Otherwise, all and any incomplete grades require the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies. Students should notify the Director of Graduate Studies immediately of any violation of this policy.

### **TWO PAPERS PRESENTED IN THE ECONOMICS 501 SEMINAR**

Each student must write and orally present two research papers in the Economics 501 *Graduate Student Seminar*. Two faculty member readers must approve the paper. It is the Department's intention that the Economics 501 seminar should be an opportunity to present work in progress that will hopefully become part of the student's dissertation.

#### **First Paper**

The Department expects that the first Economics 501 paper should be completed by July 31 at the end of the second year. One faculty member must sign the *Submission of an Economics 501 Paper* form by July 31 as part of the prerequisites for third year funding. This paper is then presented in the Economics 501 seminar during the Fall Quarter of the third year. Each seminar session is 50-minutes long. Presenters should be prepared to speak for thirty to forty minutes, and expect to receive questions.

## **Second Paper**

The second paper is typically completed by the Winter Quarter of the third year and presented in the Economics 501 seminar during the Spring Quarter of the third year. The second paper may be a revised version of the first, but only if the readers feel that sufficient progress has been made.

## **Registration and Evaluation**

Students should register for two quarters of Economics 501 on a pass/no credit (P/N) basis. Typically this is in the Fall and Spring Quarters of the third year. In each quarter, a pass grade for the quarter will be awarded by the Economics 501 instructor if:

1. A research paper is written and orally presented in the Economics 501 seminar.
2. Two faculty members sign the *Completion of an Economics 501 Paper* form signifying that the paper met the requirements for an Economics 501 research paper for the Ph.D. degree in Economics, and that they attended the presentation of the paper and affirm that it met required presentational standards. At least one of the faculty signing each form must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department (an exception to this condition is only permissible with prior written approval of the Director of Graduate Studies). The form must be received by the Graduate Program Coordinator within two weeks of the presentation or by the Friday of exam week of that quarter, whichever is earlier.
3. The student had satisfactory attendance at the seminar. It is mandatory that all third year students attend every Economics 501 seminar.

Otherwise a fail grade will be awarded for that quarter. A total of two pass grades in Economics 501 is required for a student to satisfy the Department's research paper requirement.

It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for the examination of their paper. The student should approach two appropriate faculty members to (a) evaluate the paper, and (b) attend the presentation. The student should approach faculty who taught classes which stimulated the student's interest in the topic and are also likely to serve on the student's dissertation committee. The presenter should provide both faculty members with copies of the paper at least one week in advance of the presentation.

## **Practical Information**

The Economics 501 seminar is aimed primarily at third year students. Second year students should plan to attend some seminars in the Spring Quarter to gain some idea of the level of papers and presentation. Any second year student who has made good progress on their first paper can elect to present the paper in the spring quarter of their second year if they wish.

The seminar normally meets twice or three times a week in the Fall and Spring Quarters. The days and times will be listed in the University class schedule. The seminar will be organized by one or two faculty members each year, who will attend each seminar.

An initial order of the presentations for Fall and Spring of the following academic year will be given in the March edition of the *Graduate Connection* newsletter, based on two separate random drawings of names. Then in the September edition of the *Graduate Connection*, the actual dates for each presentation will be given. Pareto-improving exchanges can then occur between students, with the consent of the organizers.

Presenters should give the Main Office a hard copy of their paper, or e-mail an electronic version, a week before their seminar. The office will arrange for copies to be made and distributed to the faculty organizers and students in the third year.

## **OTHER COURSES**

In addition to the courses taken as part of field sequences, students are encouraged to take additional courses that they find interesting. Unlike courses that count as part of their field sequences, students should generally audit these classes rather than take them for credit. However, students can take additional courses for a letter grade if they wish.

Students have to register for at least three units each quarter to be a full-time student. Students can use Economics 590 in their second year, and TGS 500 in their third year to supplement regular course registrations to obtain full-time status (multiple repeat registration is allowed). These course registrations should also be used in the Summer Quarter when regular for-credit courses are not scheduled.

## **SUPERVISED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

All doctoral students are required to act as a teaching assistant for at least one quarter at some point in their graduate career (this need not necessarily occur in the second or third years). As part of these duties, the student must lead a weekly discussion section. Teaching experience is an essential part of graduate training. Students who are fully funded for all years of their study from non-departmental sources, should "volunteer" as an unpaid Teaching Assistant for one quarter by arranging this with the Associate Chair. Foreign students must demonstrate acceptable English proficiency as prescribed by The Graduate School. Evaluations are made and kept as part of the students' record.

## **WRITTEN AND VERBAL PRESENTATION SKILLS**

The effectiveness of your research depends crucially on how well you can communicate your findings in writing and verbally. In addition professional economists have to be able to communicate with students in the classroom, to clients, and to the general public. While these skills are essential for success on the job market, time is scarce during your job-market year, so it is good idea to start working on these skills early on in your graduate career.

The Economics 501 seminar and your duties as a teaching assistant provide opportunities for you to develop your skills. In addition, Northwestern University offers a number of resources for developing writing and presentation skills. See our website for more information and links to resources.

## **A DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS PRESENTED AT AN ORAL EXAMINATION**

The prospectus signifies two things. The first is that you have an acceptable thesis proposal, which you defend at an oral examination. The second is that you have completed all of our coursework which comprises (a) the preliminary examinations / demonstration of competence in the three core areas (b) three field course sequences, (c) two Economics 501 presentations, and (d) the department's economic history requirement.

The oral examination ascertains whether the student's dissertation topic is feasible. The student selects a prospective thesis advisor and a committee of examiners. The student works with the advisor and committee to write a thesis proposal, which is the basis of the oral examination. It is important that the student choose a thesis advisor several months before the proposed oral examination. The advisor's assistance is invaluable in developing a thesis topic.

Rules on the composition of the committee are:

1. The committee must have three or more individuals.
2. At least two members of this committee, including the chair, must be members of the Northwestern University Graduate Faculty.
3. The chair of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department or have a voted courtesy appointment in the Economics Department.
4. Effective September 1, 2014: In the event that the committee chair holds a courtesy appointment, at least one other member of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department.

Exceptions to conditions 3 and 4 are only permissible with prior written approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. The names of faculty outside Economics holding courtesy appointments are listed on our website in the section on the dissertation prospectus.

### **Time Limits**

The Department expects that students making good progress should have successfully defended their dissertation prospectus by August 31 at the end of their third year. This is a requirement for fourth year funding.

The Graduate School requires students to have defended a dissertation prospectus by the end of their fourth year. Students who do not meet this requirement are placed on two-quarters of probation by The Graduate School prior to exclusion (which would ordinarily be at the end of Winter Quarter of the fifth year).

Effective with the entering class of 2014 and subsequent years, the Economics Department will have a stricter rule. Students must have completed the taught course component of Ph.D. degree and had their prospectus (dissertation proposal) approved by their committee no later than the end of the Fall Quarter in their fourth year of study, which falls on the last date of the 13th quarter of study. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the Spring Quarter in their fourth year of study (last date of the 15th quarter of study), will be excluded (dismissed) from the program and Northwestern University.

### **Administrative Procedures for the Dissertation Prospectus**

When you have completed your course work, and have scheduled the oral qualifying examination, you can initiate the process by submitting a *Prospectus Committee* form to the Graduate School on-line using CAESAR.

The Graduate School then asks the Department to verify that the course work is complete and a successful prospectus defense occurred. So that the Department can do this, the candidate should complete the Department's *Certification of a Dissertation Prospectus* form.

The candidate should complete sections 1 to 5 of this form before the oral examination. These sections ask you to provide information on the completion of your course work (preliminary examinations, field courses, paper presentations, and the Economic History requirement).

The candidate should take the form to the oral examination, where the members of the candidate's committee can sign their acceptance of the prospectus in section 6.

The completed form, along with a copy of your transcript (which can be printed out from CAESAR), should be returned immediately to the Graduate Program Coordinator's office. The Director of Graduate Studies will then review the form and authorize the Graduate School to accept your dissertation prospectus.

### **A Note on Human Subjects**

Even though we are a social science rather than a medical science, it is possible that government restrictions on the privacy of human subjects may apply to your PhD dissertation. If you are collecting new data, or even using previously collected data, on individual identifiable people, then you may have to get prior approval for your research from Northwestern's Institutional Research Board. You should read the FAQ section of their web site to see if it applies to you. The web site also includes information on the approval process, if that is necessary.

## **Goals for Dissertation Year Graduate Students**

### **MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

**By the end of the Fourth Year:** Students will only be eligible for fifth year funding if their dissertation committee chair has certified by July 31 that the student has submitted a written paper sufficiently far in advance of the deadline for the faculty member to have comprehensively reviewed it, and can certify that it is of suitable quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation. Coauthored papers are allowed, but can only be used by one student for purposes of paper certification.

**At the end of the Fifth and each Subsequent Year:** Students in year five and above can demonstrate making "good progress" by July 31 each year by (1) having already filed to receive their degree in the Summer Quarter, or (2) their advisor checks options A (student will be going on the job market in the coming year) or option B (student is not going on the job market but is making good progress) or Option C (student already has a job and is making good progress) on the form *Certification of Good Progress By Dissertation Committee Chair for Students currently in Year 5 and Above*. A student whose advisor either checks option D (student is not making good progress) or does not submit the form will be regarded as not making good progress and will be placed on probation.

A student who is placed on probation will have until the last date of the following Winter Quarter to demonstrate to their Committee Chair that they have resumed satisfactory academic progress. The Committee Chair will inform the Director of Graduate Studies in writing if and when satisfactory progress has resumed. A student who has not resumed satisfactory academic progress by the last day of the Winter Quarter will be excluded (dismissed) from the program and Northwestern University.

### **FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION**

When the student's dissertation is complete, he or she must pass a final oral examination on the dissertation and related topics. The student requests the appointment of a committee of

examiners, at least four weeks in advance of the examination date. This *Final Exam Application* form is submitted to the Graduate School on-line using CAESAR.

Ordinarily, the examiners will be the members of the student's thesis committee. Rules on the composition of the committee are:

1. The committee must have three or more individuals.
2. At least two members of this committee, including the chair, must be members of the Northwestern University Graduate Faculty.
3. The chair of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department or have a voted courtesy appointment in the Economics Department.
4. *Effective for all students whose prospectus was approved on or after September 1, 2014:* In the event that the committee chair holds a courtesy appointment, at least one other member of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department.

Exceptions to conditions 3 and 4 are only permissible with prior written approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

The Graduate School normally requires that all requirements for the doctoral degree must be met within nine years of initial registration in a doctoral program. After **nine** years, students can maintain their affiliation with Northwestern by registering each quarter (except summer) for TGS 513, *Advanced Continuous Registration*. Tuition is at a higher rate than TGS 512. This registration is considered less than half-time and therefore does not provide students with the ability to defer loans or extend visas.

Full information on completion procedures are posted on The Graduate School's website.

## THESIS SUBMISSION

Following successful completion of the final examination, an electronic version of the dissertation must be submitted to The Graduate School. See The Graduate School's website for more information.

## PLACEMENT

The Department assists its students in obtaining jobs. The Placement Director coordinates the activity. Each year a timetable is issued that indicates the key dates for preparing job market materials.

The vitae of job market candidates are disseminated by the department on its web site. Candidates can also prepare a personal web page. See the Placement section of the *Goals for Dissertation Year Students* section of our web site for practical information on preparing your vita and website.

Students on the job market should inform the Placement Director of their preferred positions, any constraints they face, the state of their negotiations, and their acceptance of job offers.

# Funding

*See the Graduate > Funding section of the Department's website for the forms that need to be submitted to certify good progress to make a student funding eligible.*

These funding rules apply to students who are admitted with full funding in their first year (i.e., with a University Fellowship). All other students should refer to their admission letter for information on funding for subsequent years, if any.

The funding criteria stated below are applicable to funding that is controlled and allocated by the Department. These are primarily Graduate Assistantships (which are usually referred to as "Teaching Assistantships") and University Fellowships. These criteria apply both to positions within the Department of Economics and also to positions funded by other Departments, such as the MMSS program, who subcontract the appointments to such positions to the Economics Department.

The funding criteria can also be taken as a definition of making "good progress" in the Ph.D. degree. As such they will be used as a guideline for when the Department seeks to appoint people as lecturers or recommends students for outside fellowships. Faculty will also consider the progress of students when making appointments to Research Assistantships.

In rare cases, a student's admission letter may contain alternative funding criteria, which take precedence over these rules.

## FOREIGN STUDENTS

Starting with the entering class of 2010, students from countries where English is not the native language must achieve a score of at least 65 on the Versant English Test to be eligible to be a Teaching Assistant. Students should have completed their spoken English requirement (meaning that the Department has a copy of their results) by July 31 to ensure that they are eligible for funding as a Teaching Assistant. Only students whose countries of origin are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom or the United States are exempt from sitting the Versant test. It is Departmental policy not to seek exemptions or alternative testing for individual students.

Older students, who have yet to meet the language requirement, can take the Versant test, or score at least 50 on the Test of Spoken English (TSE), or its on-campus version known as the SPEAK test.

## ACADEMIC YEAR FUNDING

### **First Year Students**

A student's admission letter will indicate whether or not they have been awarded a University Fellowship in the first year. Unfortunately, we cannot make additional fellowships available to unfunded students after enrollment. However, funding in the second year and beyond depends on the student's progress, as detailed below, and not on the nature of first year funding.

### **Second Year Students**

Funding decisions for students entering their second year will be announced after the grading of the preliminary examinations. Typically this will occur in mid-August. Teaching Assistantships

will be awarded to students who have demonstrated competence in the three core areas: microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. The exception is for those students who demonstrated competence in the three core areas based solely on first-year grades. Appointments for these students will be announced in early August.

### **Third Year Students**

The requirement for obtaining a Teaching Assistantship in the third year is completion of at least one Economics 501 paper which is certified as acceptable by a faculty member by July 31 at the end of the second year. While certification by a faculty member is required, presentation at the Economics 501 seminar is not. The presentation of the paper will usually be in the Fall Quarter of the third year, although presentation in the Spring Quarter of the second year is encouraged. Appointments will be announced in early August.

### **Fourth Year Students**

Funding is only available for fourth year students who have completed their thesis prospectus by August 31 at the end of their third year. The thesis prospectus requires a successful thesis proposal defense and completion of all course work and field papers.

The nature of the funding is a Teaching Assistantship in the Fall and Winter Quarters, followed by a University Fellowship in the Spring Quarter. The latter requires the student's dissertation committee chair to certify by February 15 that the student is expected to enter the job market in their fifth year. In the absence of such certification, the student will be funded as a Teaching Assistant in the Spring Quarter.

In addition, the Department awards the Robert Eisner Memorial Fellowship to one fourth year student. To be eligible, students have to have met the standard requirements for departmental funding. This award recognizes a student who has distinguished his or herself in both teaching and research.

We cannot guarantee that Teaching Assistant funds will be available for students whose thesis prospectus is completed after August 31. In any event, a Teaching Assistantship will not be awarded for any quarter in which the student has not completed the thesis prospectus. For example, a student completing the prospectus in November of the fourth year will not receive funding for the Fall Quarter, and will only be funded in the Winter and Spring Quarters if there are any unallocated Teaching Assistantships remaining.

### **Fifth Year Students**

Students will only be eligible for fifth year funding if their dissertation committee chair has certified by July 31 that the student has submitted a written paper sufficiently far in advance of the deadline for the faculty member to have comprehensively reviewed it, and can certify that it is of suitable quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation. Coauthored papers are allowed, but can only be used by one student for purposes of paper certification.

Provided a satisfactory written paper is provided, the dissertation committee chair can indicate whether or not the student will be on the job market in their fifth year. If the student intends to be on the job market, the nature of the funding is a University Fellowship in the Fall and Winter Quarters, followed by a Teaching Assistantship in the Spring Quarter. If the student withdraws from the job market prior to the ASSA meetings, the Winter Quarter fellowship will be converted to a Teaching Assistantship.

In the event that there are still funds available after all of the qualified students in years two through four and the job-market fifth year students have been funded, other fifth year students who have provided a satisfactory written paper will be supported. These students will perform Teaching Assistant duties in every quarter that they are funded. However, if the student's dissertation committee chair certifies by February 15 that the student is expected to enter the job market in their sixth year, the Spring Quarter Teaching Assistantship will be converted to a University Fellowship. (Note that if the student took advantage of a University Fellowship in the Spring Quarter of their fourth year, they are not eligible again in their fifth year.)

If the student has not provided a written paper, or if the paper is not of sufficient quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation, or if the student's dissertation committee chair certifies that the student is not making good progress on their dissertation, the student will not be eligible for any fifth year funding.

### **Sixth Year Students on the Job Market**

Students need to reaffirm that they will be on the job market by asking their dissertation committee chair to submit a form by July 31 certifying that a satisfactory draft of a job-market paper has been submitted. Advanced students are eligible for a maximum of three quarters of University Fellowship. Any remaining quarters of eligibility that the student has not used in their fourth or fifth year can be used for sixth year funding. (The Department suggests that students give priority to taking a fellowship in the Winter Quarter, as they will be traveling and will not be able to undertake alternative funding such as Teaching or Research Assistantships.) If the student withdraws from the job market prior to the ASSA meetings, any remaining quarters of fellowship will be withdrawn. Students will be funded as Teaching Assistants in other quarters, but only if there are still funds available after all of the qualified younger students have been funded

### **Sixth Year Students Not on the Job Market**

In the event that there are still funds available after all of the qualified younger students, and the job-market sixth year students, have been funded, other sixth year students will be supported. To be eligible, the dissertation committee chair must certify by July 31 that the student is making good progress. These students will perform Teaching Assistant duties in every quarter that they are funded. University Fellowships are not available to sixth year students who are not on the job market.

### **Seventh and Higher Year Students**

In the unlikely event that there are still funds available after all of the qualified younger students have been funded, seventh and higher year students will be supported. The dissertation committee chair must certify by July 31 that the student is making good progress, and preference will be given to those on the job market. However, University Fellowships are not available, even in the event that the student is on the job market.

## **SUMMER QUARTER FUNDING**

### **First Year Students**

A student's admission letter will indicate whether or not they have been awarded a Summer Graduate Fellowship at the end of the first year. Unfortunately, we cannot make additional fellowships available to unfunded students. However, funding in the summers at the end of the second through fourth years depends on the student's progress, and not on the nature of first year funding.

### **Second through Fourth Year Students**

The Department has a budget of Summer Graduate Fellowships to support some, but not all, students in the summers at the end of their second through fourth years. Priority will be given to fourth year students who have indicated that they will be on the job market in their fifth year. We will then allocated the remainder of the budget starting with the second year students. Students can guarantee summer funding by obtaining a Research Assistantship, or teaching in the Summer Session (the Summer Session stipend will be supplemented to the level of a Fellowship).

The Graduate School and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences has the following requirements for recipients of Summer Graduate Fellowships. Students must:

- have been eligible for departmental funding during the previous academic year,
- be intending to register in the following Fall Quarter,
- conduct academic pursuits, and submit a report on these activities by the start of Fall Quarter,
- limit any work for pay outside of Northwestern University to a maximum of 120 hours between June 15 and September 15, and
- not take more than three weeks of "vacation" or non-research time away from campus (it is permissible to be absent from campus to conduct research).

The acceptance form for summer funding must be submitted between May 1 and May 15 each year.

### **Fifth Year Students and Beyond**

The University only funds summers up until the fourth year. Older students can seek Research Assistantships or teach in the Summer Session.

## Summary of Continuation and Academic Year Funding Rules

*These Departmental rules are in addition to general Graduate School requirements on good academic standing and the need to maintain a B average. In addition Teaching Assistantships require students to have met the Graduate School's English-language requirements by July 31.*

Entry Into	Continuation	Academic Year Funding <i>(See text for Summer Quarter Funding Rules)</i>
Second Year	Demonstrated competence in the three core areas: microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics	Demonstrated competence in the three core areas: microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. Funding will be as a TA.
Third Year		Certification of one Economics 501 paper by July 31. Funding will be as a TA.
Fourth Year		Thesis Prospectus by August 31 (Successful thesis proposal defense, plus completion of all course work and field papers). Funding will be as a TA.*
Fifth Year	<i>Thesis Prospectus by end of Spring Quarter of Fourth Year (applicable to class of 2014 and subsequent years. Students in the class of 2013 and earlier are subject to The Graduate School deadline of the end of the fourth year plus two quarters of probation)</i>	Certification by Committee Chair by July 31 that the student has a written paper of suitable quality to form one chapter of a dissertation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If the Committee Chair also certifies that the student intends to be on the job market, funding will be in the form of a Fellowship in Fall and Winter Quarters, and TA funding for Spring Quarter.</li> <li>▪ If the student has a satisfactory paper but is not going on the market, funding as a TA is not guaranteed and is only available if there are any funds remaining.*</li> </ul> <i>Fifth years without a satisfactory paper will generally not be funded.</i>
Sixth Year	Certification by Committee Chair by July 31 of "good progress" on dissertation.@	Certification by Committee Chair that the student intends to be on the job market then funding will be in the form of a Fellowship in Fall and Winter Quarters, and TA funding for Spring Quarter.# <i>Non-job-market sixth years will generally not be funded</i>
7+ Years	Certification by Committee Chair by July 31 of "good progress" on dissertation required each year.@	<i>Students in years 7 and above will generally not be funded, and are not eligible for Dissertation Year Fellowship funding</i>

\* Students in years 4 and 5 can convert their Spring Quarter TA funding to a Fellowship in the year before they go on the job market.

# Students cannot receive more than three quarters of Dissertation Year Fellowship funding.

@ Students failing to demonstrate "good progress" will be placed on probation, and have two quarters to resume satisfactory progress.