

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Effective August 2009

The program requirements for the PhD in Economics are in transition during 2009-10, as program changes approved by the department in Spring 2009 go through the University approval process. Students entering in August 2009 will be advised along a path that is consistent with the imminent requirements; the requirements are expected to be in full force in January 2010.

### COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The required 72 credits involve 9 core courses, 4 field courses, 2 elective courses, plus credit for research seminars, the technical paper, and the dissertation work. In general, courses comprise 3 credits each. The specifics are summarized as follows:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
<b>CORE COURSES</b>		
ECON 501 <sup>P</sup>	Quantitative Methods for Economists	3
ECON 504 <sup>P</sup>	Macroeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON 505 <sup>P</sup>	History of Economic Thought	3
ECON 506 <sup>P</sup>	Microeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON 635 <sup>P</sup> / AREC 635 <sup>P</sup>	Econometric Theory I	3
ECON 735 <sup>P</sup> / AREC 735 <sup>P</sup>	Econometric Theory II	3
ECON 704 <sup>P</sup>	Macroeconomic Analysis II	3
ECON 705 <sup>P</sup>	Heterodox Economic Theory	3
ECON 706 <sup>P</sup>	Microeconomic Analysis II	3
	SUBTOTAL	27
<b>FIELD COURSES</b>		
	Two pairs of field courses from among the field pairs designated by the Department	12
<b>ELECTIVES</b>		
	Electives <sup>1</sup>	6
<b>RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION</b>		
ECON 698	Technical Paper <sup>2</sup>	3
ECON 792B	Seminar - General	6
ECON 799	Dissertation	18
<b>EXAMS<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>PROGRAM TOTAL = 72 credits</b>		

<sup>P</sup> This course has at least one prerequisite. Check the Courses of Instruction section of the catalog or <http://catalog.colostate.edu/front/courses-of-instruction.aspx> to see the course prerequisites.

<sup>1</sup> Electives do not include ECON 698, 699, 784 or 799. Electives must be 500-level or higher.

<sup>2</sup> Completion of the Technical Paper, with satisfactory oral defense along with appropriate course work, satisfies the requirements for the Plan B MA degree. Therefore, the MA degree can be awarded along the way to the PhD.

<sup>3</sup> Students must pass the written PhD Qualifying Examination, the preliminary Oral Examination, and the final Oral Examination.

## **FIELDS**

Students choose two of the following pairs of courses, and must complete each course in each pair with a grade of at least B, to satisfy the Fields requirement:

### Environmental Economics

ECON 540 Economics of Natural Resources

ECON 541 Environmental Economics

### International Economics

ECON 640 International Trade Theory and Policy

ECON 742 International Finance

### Political Economy

ECON 570 Marxian Economics

ECON 770 Political Economy of Race and Gender

### Public Economics

ECON 520 Economics of Taxation

ECON 720 Economics of Public Expenditure

### Regional Economics

ECON 563 Regional Economic Theory and Methods

ECON 663 Urban and Regional Modeling

Please note that faculty availability and student demand affect the feasibility of offering particular field courses in particular years, and students should remain informed of which field options are available to fit the timing of their program plans. The department's tentative schedule of field course offerings in coming years, subject to change, is available [here](#).

## **GPA REQUIREMENTS**

Students must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA across 500+ level ECON courses; must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA for university course work in general; and must earn a grade of at least B in each course counting toward a declared field.

## **EXAMINATIONS**

**Ph.D. Qualifying Examination in Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.** To qualify to continue in the program, Ph.D. students must pass the written Qualifying Examination. The Qualifying Exam includes two halves, macroeconomic theory and microeconomic theory, and requires the student to demonstrate achievement of an acceptable level of professional competence in these fundamental areas of modern economics. To attempt the Qualifying Exam, an individual must be a registered economics graduate student who is in compliance with the program's GPA standards for Satisfactory Performance, and who has completed the Macro and Micro theory course sequences. To meet Satisfactory Progress standards, students must attempt the Qualifying Exam in January of the second year (after completion of Econ 704 and 706).

For additional information, see [PhD Qualifying Examination](#).

**Preliminary Oral Comprehensive Examination.** After the Qualifying Examination has been passed, and at least two semesters before the final oral examination (dissertation defense), the student must pass an oral comprehensive exam administered by his/her advisory committee. The content of this exam will be determined by the committee in each case but will ordinarily include presentation of a prospectus on the student's proposed dissertation research. In addition, material covering economic theory or the student's fields may be included where the committee determines that such coverage is warranted.

**Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense).** The final examination is an oral dissertation defense in which the student is examined on the contents and methods of his/her dissertation research as well as related areas of economics.

## **RESEARCH**

### **The Technical Paper**

During the summer after the first year, students write papers that apply empirical methods to the theory learned in ECON 504, 506, and 705, for a grade to be assigned upon enrollment in ECON 598 the subsequent fall. These three short papers together can constitute a "Technical Paper" that would be defended in the fall to satisfy that requirement for the MA (Plan B), both for students who continue to the PhD, and those who ultimately do not pass the Qualifying Examination or who otherwise do not complete the PhD program.

### **Seminars**

Students enroll in two semesters of Research Seminar, ECON 792B, in the sixth and eighth semesters. Third-year students begin researching and writing toward their dissertation proposals. Fourth-year students present completed aspects of their work, including drafts of their job-market papers.

### **The Dissertation**

Each candidate for the PhD degree must submit an acceptable dissertation, embodying publishable original research on a topic approved in advance by the student's committee. A PhD dissertation is the scholar's own contribution to knowledge and reflects the ability to conduct and communicate independent research of such caliber and expertise that it adds significantly to the field of knowledge. The dissertation format must comply with the standards specified in the Graduate School's Thesis Manual (available at the CSU Bookstore) and be approved by the Department prior to binding. A hardbound copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Department Chair. It is also customary that a hard-bound copy of the dissertation be presented to the student's dissertation director.

## **TIME LIMITS**

The Graduate School requires that courses to be applied toward fulfilling the requirements for a doctoral degree must have been completed within the ten years immediately preceding the date of completion of requirements for the doctoral degree. This requirement does not apply to courses transferred from the Master's degree. In addition to this general requirement, the Department has its own stricter standards for timely progress; see [Satisfactory Progress](#).

### TYPICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The following sample 5-year schedule assumes no transfer credit, and aims to prepare the student to be on the academic job market in the fall of the fifth year. Schedules for students in the second and third years will depend on the scheduling of the field courses in which they are interested.

First year	Fall	ECON 501, ECON 505, ECON 635
	Spring	ECON 504, ECON 506, ECON 705, ECON 735
	Summer	Research: Technical Paper (see description above)
Second year	Fall	ECON 598, ECON 704, ECON 706 (and possible field course)
	Spring	Qualifying Examination 3 Field Courses
Third year	Fall	1 Field Course and 2 Elective Courses
	Spring	ECON 792B - work toward dissertation proposal
Fourth year	Fall	Preliminary Oral Examination; dissertation work
	Spring	ECON 792B - write job market paper; dissertation work
Fifth year	Fall	Job market; dissertation work
	Spring	Dissertation work; final oral examination; submission of the final dissertation

A student may enter the program in the Spring semester, but in this case normal progress requires taking some field or elective courses before the core courses, which may not be optimal.