

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Student Learning Outcomes - Ph.D. Degree

CIP Code: 450601

Approved: December 1, 2003

Degree Requirements

All students graduating with a Ph.D. degree in economics at Kansas State University must take the following eight courses in the Department of Economics as a part of their graduation requirements:

ECON 735	Mathematical Economics
ECON 940	Advanced Microeconomic Theory I
ECON 945	Advanced Microeconomic Theory II
ECON 805	Income and Employment Theory I
ECON 905	Income and Employment Theory II
ECON 830	Econometrics I
ECON 930	Econometrics II
ECON 810	History of Economic Thought, or a graduate economics course at the 800-level or above in a third field

Students must take STAT 706 or higher, one of the AGECE courses (901, 905, 923, or 936), and enough courses to constitute two fields. In addition, a student must present his/her dissertation proposal and defend his/her dissertation to all members of the academy, including his/her committee, fellow graduate students, faculty from the department and the university, and the public at large.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Students from the doctoral program in economics must demonstrate a thorough understanding and/or competency in economics. They must demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, analysis, and communication to solve problems and to produce scholarly and creative works including but not limited to original research in the form of a dissertation. Students must exhibit an awareness of their responsibilities (professional integrity, ethical behavior, ability to work with diverse groups of peoples, etc.) and professional conduct towards all constituent groups, including students, faculty, the public, etc.

Meeting the course requirements, passing the written comprehensive exams (microeconomics, macroeconomics, and two fields), and successful completion of the dissertation in the doctoral program in economics demonstrates the students' ability in the three essential areas.

Learning Outcomes

Core Course(s) Where Acquired and Measured

A. Knowledge

Graduates from the doctoral program will demonstrate thorough understanding of economics. Specifically, they will demonstrate

1. their ability to describe economic phenomena and generate predictions using mathematical models.

735, 940, 945, 805, 905, 830, 930
Qualifying exams
Field exams
Dissertation

2. their understanding of consumer theory and production theory, and their ability to derive key results.

735, 940, 945
Qualifying exams

3. their understanding of the impact of externalities, market power and imperfect information on markets, as well as their assessment of various corrective policies.

735, 805, 905, 940, 945
Qualifying exams
Field exams

4. their ability to understand and evaluate fiscal and monetary policies in terms of their impacts on the economy.

940, 945, 805, 905
Qualifying exams

5. their ability to understand the principle of comparative advantage, as well as their ability to evaluate the costs and benefits of specialization and trade.

940, 945, 805, 905

6. their understanding of the costs and causes of unemployment and poverty, and their ability to assess the impacts of public policies on these issues.

940, 945, 805, 905
Qualifying exams

7. their understanding of the determinants of economic growth.

805, 905

B. Skills

Critical Thinking

The doctoral students will develop their critical thinking skills in every required core course. They will also demonstrate their ability to do so in publicly defending their proposals and dissertations.

735, 940, 945, 805, 905, 830, 930

Qualifying exams

Field exams

Dissertation

Communication Skills

Both speaking and writing skills are emphasized throughout the program. Students write term papers and present their papers in most of the field courses. In many courses, students also present research papers of others. That is, they present the model and any theoretical and/or empirical results and answer questions. Most graduate students are involved in undergraduate teaching, either as instructors or teaching assistants. Students publicly present their dissertation proposals and defend their dissertations.

800 or above field courses

Teaching Assistantship

Field exams

Dissertation

C. Attitudes

Diversity

In core courses students learn to appreciate how nations and individuals are inter-related. In our department students work with the international and female faculty and a large number of international fellow students. Through the doctoral program students learn to appreciate diversity. The Department recognizes and actively encourages a diversity of viewpoints among its students and faculty.

940, 805, 905

Ownership of Learning

Throughout the program students realize that the science of economics is ever changing and that they should update their understanding of economics through reading newly published academic material and submitting their work for peer review.

830, 905

Field courses

Dissertation

Personal and Professional Development

Ethics:

Students learn to apply accepted practices with respect to methodology, analysis, and reporting of results, culminating in conclusions that are transparent and well supported by the process. They learn to respect and value others' work even if they do not agree with it.

735, 940, 945, 805, 905, 830, 930
Dissertation

Personal and Social Responsibilities:

Students learn that individuals tend to act in ways that promote their self-interest. They learn that markets sometimes fail to operate efficiently. In these instances, students learn that society may be better off through collective action. Students' training in this area helps to foster a sense of social responsibility. They learn to appreciate the commitment to scholarship.

940, 945

Leadership and Teamwork:

Students acquire leadership and teamwork skills through group projects, class presentations, and individual research projects in core courses and field courses. They learn to work collegially.

830
Field courses