
Donald Bruce – Public Economics, Taxation, Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics
Celeste Carruthers – Economics of Education, Public Economics, Antitrust Economics
Don Clark – International Economics, Growth and Development, Marketing & Logistics, Health Economics
William Fox – Public Economics, Taxation, State and Local Public Finance
Jean Gauger – Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics
Scott Gilpatrick – Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Behavioral Economics
Scott Holladay – International Trade, Environmental Economics
Jacob LaRiviere – Environmental and Resource Economics, Industrial Organization
Luiz Renato Lima – Forecasting, Quantile Regression, Applied Econometrics
Mohammed Mohsin – Macroeconomics, International Economics, Time Series Econometrics
Matthew Murray – State and Local Taxation, Tax Compliance, Education, Economic Development
William Neilson – Microeconomic Theory, Behavioral Economics
Rudy Santore – Industrial Organization, Law and Economics, Public Economics
Georg Scharf – International Trade, Applied Econometrics
Christian Vossler – Environmental, Public, and Experimental Economics; Applied Econometrics
Marianne Wanamaker – Labor Economics, Economic History

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department Website
http://econ.bus.utk.edu/

Graduate School Website
http://gradschool.utk.edu/

Admissions Application and Materials
Graduate School:
http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/

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Graduate Program

The Department of Economics at the University of Tennessee offers graduate programs leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Our graduate students are a source of pride to the Department. While the program is demanding, we admit only students who we believe can complete it successfully. Teaching graduate courses and working closely with graduate students is essential to the professional development of the faculty. In turn, the program provides excellent preparation for aspiring economists. Over the last several years, the Department has enjoyed a 100 percent placement rate for our graduates, who go on to lead successful careers in academe, government, and the private sector.

Two defining themes of our Department are collegiality and a devotion to teaching and research. Professors are committed to helping graduate students succeed, and most have an “open door” policy. Faculty members publish in leading academic journals, edit journals in a variety of fields, and regularly win significant research grants. The Department runs two seminar series. The first is the Brown Bag Research Workshop, which showcases emerging research from faculty and graduate students. The second is the Greer Seminar Series, which features prominent faculty from other institutions. Affiliated centers and research units include the Center for Business and Economic Research, the Behavioral Economics Research Group, and the Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy.
Admissions

Admission to the MA and PhD programs is based on promise of outstanding scholarship as demonstrated by previous academic performance, by scores achieved on the general portion of the GRE, and by letters of recommendation.

Quantitative skills are critical for success in the program. Prospective students should complete courses in calculus (at least three semesters), linear algebra, and statistics. Additional coursework in econometrics, mathematical economics, differential equations, and/or advanced economic theory is strongly encouraged.

Prospective students submit application materials online through the Graduate School web site. Those who complete the application processes by February 1 will be given full consideration for fall admissions and financial support. Given the timing of course offerings, students are considered for fall admission only.

Assistantships and Fellowships

Students in the graduate program may be awarded assistantships or other financial aid. Initial awards are competitive and based on prior academic performance, letters of recommendation, and GRE scores. Maintenance of financial aid is contingent on students’ high academic standing, demonstrated work performance, and active involvement in the program.

A limited number of assistantships are available through the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics for students interested in completing a field in agricultural and resource economics as part of the Ph.D. program requirements. To be considered, students should indicate on their application interest in this field.

Various fellowships are offered by the Haslam College of Business, the Graduate School, and outside sources. See the Department and Graduate School websites for information on available and upcoming fellowships.

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The PhD program requires a minimum of 48 hours of coursework beyond the bachelor’s degree or 24 hours beyond the master’s degree, at least 24 hours of Doctoral Research and Dissertation (Economics 600), and demonstrated mastery of econometrics, microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, and two fields of specialization. The Department offers five fields: Agricultural and Resource Economics, Environmental Economics, Industrial Organization, International Economics, and Public Finance.

Fields of Specialization and Research: To begin the transition from taking classes to doing original research, students must submit a satisfactory third-year research paper before the start of their fourth year of study. Students are encouraged to begin work on their research paper as early as possible, and to consult with faculty members often as their research progresses. Research papers will be evaluated by a committee of faculty members representing a diversity of fields.

Dissertation: A dissertation, the culmination of years of graduate study, is a unique, meaningful contribution to the body of human knowledge. Students work closely with faculty and advisers as their research progresses, and should present their work in Brown Bag and/or Greer seminar series. As one of their final program requirements, students must defend a completed doctoral dissertation before the faculty.

Time to Completion: Time to completion varies between 4 and 6 years for students who stay actively involved in their program of study.

MASTER’S PROGRAM

The MA program requires 30 hours of coursework at the 400 level or above, including 24 hours at the 500 level or above. Additional distributional requirements apply. MA students may pursue a thesis or non-thesis option. Non-thesis students must pass the departmental qualifying examination in either microeconomics or macroeconomics. Thesis students, under the advisement of a committee of faculty members, will complete and defend a meaningful research paper. A minor in Environmental Policy is available through the MA program.

Time to Completion: Time to completion is commonly 1-1/2 years for non-thesis students and 2 years for the thesis option.