

PhD in Economics

OVERVIEW

The Ph.D. in economics offered by the Department of Economics at the University of Tennessee combines rigorous work in economic theory and econometrics with the detailed study of real-world problems and institutions. Our position in the Haslam College of Business allows students to pursue interests in complementary fields such as finance and business analytics. Our ties with the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy provide unique research opportunities. The Department has a designated experimental economics laboratory.

Faculty members publish in leading academic journals, edit journals in a variety of fields, and regularly win significant research grants. Two defining themes of our Department are collegiality and a passion for teaching and research. Professors are committed to helping graduate students succeed, regularly publish research with current students and graduates, and provide strong mentoring.

The Knoxville campus is the flagship public university in Tennessee. In 2010, the university embarked on a journey to rank among the nation's Top 25 public research universities. This has stimulated a wide variety of transformational initiatives, leading to significant improvements in student outcomes, our facilities, and our faculty.

CURRICULUM

In addition to core coursework, the program offers two-course specialization sequences in behavioral & experimental economics, environmental economics, industrial organization, international economics and public finance. Most of these courses involve experiential learning through applied problem-solving exercises and research experiences. The interests of the faculty and students go beyond these fields, and in recent years students have also written dissertations in econometrics, education, labor, and macroeconomics. Students are further encouraged to complete teaching and writing courses offered through the College.

To begin the transition from taking classes to doing original research, students complete a second-year research paper. Students are expected to begin work on their research paper as early as possible, and are encouraged to work closely with one or more faculty members. This requirement is an important step in the professional development of our students. In many cases, the second-year paper becomes part of the required dissertation.

Most students complete the degree in five years, although in some cases the degree has been completed in as little as three years.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is based on promise of outstanding scholarship as established by previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, GRE scores, and for international applicants, scores on the TOEFL or IELTS.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree, although a degree in economics is not required. Quantitative skills are critical for success in the program, and we strongly recommend that applicants complete a course in statistics, econometrics (or regression analysis), matrix algebra, and at least one year of calculus prior to enrollment.

Prospective students submit application materials online through the Graduate School web site. There is no separate program application. The deadline for applicants is February 1.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Applicants indicate as part of the admissions application whether they wish to be considered for funding. There is no separate form. We award approximately six to eight assistantships each year on a competitive basis. Assistantships currently pay \$18,000 per academic year, and include a tuition waiver and health insurance. Summer funding is available.

A select number of scholarships are available for exceptional incoming students, including the Haslam Doctoral Scholarship and the Howard Baker Doctoral Scholarship in Energy and the Environment.

Additional assistantships, fellowships and scholarships are available through the Graduate School.

JOB PLACEMENT

Graduates go on to work at major universities, government agencies, research centers, financial institutions and private companies.

In recent years, our placements have exceeded those of our peers and are on par with several aspirant programs. Below is a sampling of recent placements.

Academic (tenure-track):

- New Mexico State University
- University of Alberta
- Xavier University
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Bates College
- Furman University

Non-Academic:

- CVS Caremark
- Central Bank of Jordan
- Korea Institute for Ind. Econ. and Trade
- KAPSARC
- US Department of Defense
- Bank of the West

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DEPARTMENT WEB SITE: <http://econ.bus.utk.edu/>

GRADUATE SCHOOL WEB SITE: <http://gradschool.utk.edu/>