Departmental Guidelines for PhD students in Economic Analysis and Policy

1. Doctoral students must complete 48 semester hours in Economics or in our partner programs.

   • Prior to the first year, students will complete a summer mathematics prep course. During the first year, students will take six core courses. Students are expected to demonstrate competency in all core courses by completing each course with a grade of B- or better.

   • During the second year, students will take courses needed to meet the requirements in their chosen field of concentration, as well as elective courses. Courses outside of the economics department are subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. Students are expected to demonstrate competency in all field courses by completing each course with a grade of B- or better.

   • At all times, student academic standing must remain consistent with Tulane School of Liberal Arts guidelines. Two general requirements are especially noteworthy: (1) “A grade of B- will count as graduate credit, but it is considered a weak grade at the graduate level and may be cause for departmental action ...” (2) “A minimum average quality-point ratio of 3.0 (B) must be maintained by a student in the School of Liberal Arts…”

2. After completion of the core courses, doctoral students must pass qualifying examinations (typically during the summer following the first year). The qualifying exams will cover the material in microeconomics and econometrics.

   • If a student does not pass the microeconomics qualifying examination on the first attempt, a second microeconomics qualifying exam will be scheduled (typically during the following January). A third microeconomics examination will not be given, unless exceptional circumstances can be documented.

   • If a student does not pass the econometrics qualifying examination on the first attempt, a second econometrics exam will be scheduled (typically during the following January). A third econometrics examination will not be given, unless exceptional circumstances can be documented.

   • Students that do not pass both qualifying exams within two attempts will be terminated from the program (typically effective at the end of the second academic year). If such a student has met the credit requirements for a MA in economics, they will be eligible for a master's degree.

   • Preliminary exam results do not affect financial aid or financial aid requirements until termination.

3. After completion of the field courses, doctoral students must complete a field research paper (typically by the end of the summer following the second year). The field research paper requirement takes the place of a traditional field exam and helps students transition into research.

4. Following approval of the field paper, doctoral students must develop and defend a dissertation prospectus (typically by the end of the third year). Students are expected to choose a dissertation advisor, form a dissertation committee, and complete a written dissertation prospectus. Students making satisfactory progress are expected to orally defend their dissertation prospectus to the dissertation committee. This oral examination will focus on the dissertation prospectus. However, the examination may include course material or any other relevant material at the discretion of the dissertation committee.

5. Following approval of the prospectus, doctoral students will advance to candidacy. Students who advance to candidacy will then have two years to complete their written dissertation. Expected time to completion for the entire process is five years.
6. In addition to the dissertation itself, a final requirement for the doctoral degree is an oral defense of the dissertation research presented to the committee. This presentation will be open to all faculty and graduate students.

7. Students receiving financial aid are expected to provide research and teaching service to the department. All students will perform some research assistantship duties and all students will perform some teaching assistantship duties. Both teaching and research are integral parts of graduate training.

8. Students are expected to attend departmental seminars, typically held on Fridays. Attendance and active participation is an integral part of graduate training.