

The Graduate Advising System

Graduate advising tends to be much more individualized than what many students may know from their undergraduate studies. It is aimed ultimately at creating mentoring relationships in which the advisor guides the student in research and in becoming a professional economist.

Upon admission to the graduate program, a student is assigned to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies as a temporary advisor. The temporary advisor serves to guide the student in course selection in the initial stages, to answer questions about program policies and requirements, and to facilitate the process of selecting a permanent advisor and establishing a program of study.

Master's Advising

As soon as possible, and no later than the preregistration period for the student's third semester (around the tenth week of the student's second semester), a Master's student must select a permanent advisor. The selection is by mutual agreement of the student and the faculty member, and should reflect a commonality of field and research interests.

The student and the permanent advisor establish the rest of the student's advisory committee. For Master's students, this committee must consist of at least three members of the faculty – the student's advisor (who serves as chair of the committee) and two other members, one of whom must be from another department. The committee members are designated on the GS Form 6. The GS Form 6 also sets out the student's program of study, that is, the plan of course work and research credits that the student expects to follow to satisfy the degree requirements. The GS Form 6 is completed in consultation with the advisor, is submitted to the Department Office for review and approval by the Department Chair, and must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the tenth week of the student's second semester.

The advisor serves as supervisor for the student's research work culminating in the Thesis. The advisor determines when the student and thesis are ready for the Final Oral Exam (Defense).

Doctoral Advising

As soon as possible, and no later than the preregistration period for the student's fourth regular semester (around the tenth week of the student's third semester), a doctoral student must select a permanent advisor. The selection is by mutual agreement of the student and the faculty member, and should reflect a commonality of field and research interests.

The student and the permanent advisor establish the rest of the student's advisory committee. For doctoral students, this committee must consist of at least four members of the faculty - the student's advisor (who serves as chairperson of the committee) and three other members, one of whom must be from another department. The committee members are designated on the GS Form 6. The GS Form 6 also sets out the student's program of study, that is, the plan of course work and research credits that the student expects to follow to satisfy the degree requirements. The GS Form 6 is completed in consultation with the advisor, is submitted to the Department

office for review and approval by the Chair, and must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the tenth week of the student's third semester.

The advisor serves as supervisor for the research work that culminates in the dissertation. The advisor determines when the student is ready for the Preliminary Oral Exam, and when the student and dissertation are ready for the Final Oral Exam (dissertation defense).

Graduation

Graduation ceremonies are the culmination of graduate studies. Colorful academic traditions are part of the degree-granting convocation. Students receiving MA or PhD degrees attend the graduation ceremonies of the Graduate School held each May and December. Faculty members wear the regalia of the university from which they receive their advanced degrees. Graduates wear traditional caps and gowns and receive their MA or PhD hoods. The Department has information on cap and gown rentals.

Each semester the Graduate School circulates a schedule of deadlines to be met by students anticipating to graduate in that semester. Students expecting to graduate in any semester should make sure they obtain a copy of this schedule and comply with all deadlines specified. All graduate students must submit an Application to Graduate (GS Form 25) and a Diploma Slip (GS Form 25A) by the appropriate deadline in order to graduate. These forms are available at the Graduate School web site.