

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PhD DEGREE

Effective January 2020

COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The required 72 credits involve 11 core courses, 18 credits of advanced courses, plus credit for research seminars, a research replication, and dissertation work. The specifics are summarized as follows:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
CORE COURSES		
ECON 501	Quantitative Methods for Economists	3
ECON 505	History of Economic Thought	3
ECON 604	Macroeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON/AREC 535	Applied Econometrics	3
ECON/AREC 606	Microeconomic Analysis I	3
ECON/AREC 635	Econometric Theory I	3
ECON/AREC 735	Econometric Theory II	2
ECON/AREC 736 (A,B,C, or D)	Quantitative Analysis	1
ECON 704	Macroeconomic Analysis II	3
ECON 705	Heterodox Approaches to Economics	3
ECON 706	Microeconomic Analysis II	3
	SUBTOTAL	30
ADVANCED COURSES	6 advanced courses among those designated by the Department ²	18
RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION		
ECON 698	Research Replication ²	3
ECON 793	Seminar – General	3
ECON 799	Dissertation	18
EXAMS ³		
	PROGRAM TOTAL	72 credits

Check the Colorado State University General Catalog to see the course prerequisites.

¹ ECON 504, 506, 698, 699, 784 or 799 cannot count toward the advanced course requirements.

Advanced/Field courses must be 500-level or higher.

² In order to take advanced courses in other departments, students must obtain written approval by the Director of Graduate Studies. Such courses must be 500-level or higher, and students can take a maximum of 6 credits in such courses.

³ Completion of the Research Replication, with satisfactory oral defense along with appropriate course work, satisfies the requirements for the Plan B MA degree. Therefore, the MA degree Plan B can be awarded along the way to the PhD.

⁴ Students must pass the written PhD Qualifying Exam, the preliminary Oral Exam, and the final Oral Exam.

ADVANCED COURSES

The Department's main fields of specialization are: Development Economics, Environmental Economics, International Economics, Political Economy, Public Economics, and Regional Economics. Students will complete *at least four* of the courses below with a grade of B or higher. Students are encouraged to take the remaining 6 credits among the course offerings by the Department, in order to broaden or deepen their areas of expertise. Students who wish to take advanced courses in other departments must first obtain written approval from the Director of Graduate Studies. Such courses must be 500-level or higher.

Development Economics

ECON 760	Theories of Economic Development
ECON 792E	Seminar: Development

Environmental Economics

ECON/AREC 740	Advanced Natural Resource Economics
ECON/AREC 741	Advanced Environmental Economics

International Economics

ECON 640	International Trade Theory and Policy
ECON 742	International Production and Monetary Theory

Political Economy

ECON 771	Political Economy of Race and Gender
ECON 772	Marxian Political Economy

Public Economics

ECON 520	Public Economics I*
ECON 720	Public Economics II*

Regional Economics

ECON/AREC 563	Regional Economics – Theory, Methods, and Issues
ECON 663	Urban and Regional Modeling

Please note that faculty availability and student demand affect the feasibility of offering particular advanced/field courses in particular years, and students should remain informed of which options are available to fit the timing of their program plans. Depending on Faculty interests and availability, the department may offer advanced courses in the General catalog** that are not included in the above list, or new courses. The department's tentative schedule of advanced/field course offerings, subject to change, is available at <https://economics.colostate.edu/courses>.

GPA REQUIREMENTS

Students must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA across 500+ level ECON courses; must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA for university coursework in general; and must earn a grade of at least B in each advanced course.

*These courses can be taken in either order.

**See <https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/courses-az/econ/>

EXAMINATIONS

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination in Macroeconomics and Microeconomics

To qualify to continue in the program, Ph.D. students must pass the written Qualifying Examination. The Qualifying Exam includes two halves, macroeconomic theory and microeconomic theory, and requires the student to demonstrate achievement of an acceptable level of professional competence in these fundamental areas of modern economics. To attempt the Qualifying Exam, an individual must be a registered economics graduate student who is in compliance with the program's GPA standards for Satisfactory Performance, and who has completed the Macro and Micro theory course sequences. To meet Satisfactory Progress standards, students must attempt the Qualifying Exam in January of the second year (after completion of Econ 704 and 706). For additional information, see the website under [PhD Qualifying Exam](#).

Preliminary Oral Comprehensive Examination

After passing the Qualifying Examination, and at least two semesters before the final oral examination (dissertation defense), the student must pass an oral comprehensive exam administered by their advisory committee. The content of this exam will be determined by the committee in each case but will ordinarily include presentation of a prospectus on the student's proposed dissertation research. In addition, material covering economic theory or the student's fields may be included where the committee determines that such coverage is warranted.

Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense)

The final examination is an oral dissertation defense in which the student is examined on the contents and methods of their dissertation research as well as related areas of economics.

RESEARCH

The Replication Exercise

During the spring of the second year, students write papers based on replicating research from a published paper and adding their own modification as part of ECON698. These papers are presented in a special seminar to satisfy the presentation/defense requirement for the MA (Plan B), both for students who continue to the PhD, and those who ultimately do not pass the Qualifying Examination or who otherwise do not complete the PhD program.

Seminar

Students enroll in one semester of Research Seminar, ECON 793, typically in the sixth semester. Third-year students begin researching and writing their dissertation proposals. Students are encouraged to start independent research before ECON793.

The Dissertation

Each candidate for the PhD degree must submit an acceptable dissertation, embodying publishable original research on a topic approved in advance by the student's committee. A PhD dissertation is the scholar's own contribution to knowledge and reflects the ability to conduct and communicate independent research of such caliber and expertise that it adds significantly to the field of knowledge. The dissertation format must comply with the standards specified in the Graduate School's Thesis Manual (available at the CSU

Bookstore) and be approved by the Department prior to binding. A hardbound copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Department Chair. *It is also customary that a hard-bound copy of the dissertation be presented to the student's dissertation advisor.*

TIME LIMITS

The Graduate School requires that courses applied toward fulfilling the requirements for a doctoral degree must have been completed within the ten years immediately preceding the date of completion of requirements for the doctoral degree. This requirement does not apply to courses transferred from the Master's degree. In addition to this general requirement, the Department has its own stricter standards for timely progress; see the website under Satisfactory Progress.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The following sample 5-year schedule assumes no transfer credit, and aims to prepare the student to be on the academic job market in the fall of the fifth year. Schedules for students in the second, third and fourth year will depend on the scheduling of the field courses in which they are interested. It is not uncommon for students to extend into their sixth year, but it is uncommon for a program of study to extend longer than six years.

FIRST YEAR	Fall	ECON 501, ECON 505, ECON 535
	Spring	ECON 604, ECON/AREC 606, ECON 705
SECOND YEAR	Fall	ECON/AREC 635, ECON 704, ECON/AREC 706
	Spring	Qualifying Examination, ECON698, ECON/AREC 735**, ECON/AREC 736 (A,B,C, or D)**, 1 advanced course
THIRD YEAR	Fall	3 advanced courses
	Spring	ECON 793; work toward dissertation proposal, 2 advanced courses
FOURTH YEAR	Fall	Preliminary Oral Examination; dissertation work, 1 advanced course***
	Spring	Dissertation work
FIFTH YEAR	Fall	Job market; dissertation work
	Spring	Dissertation work; final oral examination; submission of the final dissertation

**ECON/AREC 735 and 736(A,B,C, or D) are 2 credits and 1 credit respectively.

***The schedule is for illustration purposes only. You may take advanced courses in any order and at any time during your third year onward. See above regarding taking graduate courses in other departments.