

GRADUATE HANDBOOK

Department of Economics

2011-2012

Students should consult the University's current Graduate Bulletin, or the Graduate School Office, or the College Graduate Program Office, for deadlines for filing applications for degrees, for taking comprehensive examinations, and for submitting theses. More generally, students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling all requirements and procedures of the Graduate College and the Department of Economics.

**For general information regarding graduate programs
at the University of Nebraska's
College of Business Administration
and application status, contact:**

Graduate Program Office
126 College of Business Administration
P.O. Box 880405
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0405
USA

Telephone Number: (402) 472-2338
Fax Number: (402) 472-5180
Email: GRADADV@CBAMAIL.UNL.EDU

**For specific questions regarding courses and advising
in the Department of Economics, contact:**

Professor Matthew Cushing
Chair, Economics Graduate Committee
Telephone Number: (402) 472-2323
Email: gradecon@unlnotes.unl.edu

Admission:

Entry into UNL Graduate Studies is valid for the semester indicated on the Certificate of Admission. However, a student may delay enrollment by one or two terms if he or she meets certain Graduate College requirements and if the Economics Department consents to the delay. (There is no guarantee of an offer of an assistantship if there is a request for postponement of enrollment.)

Students who are accepted but do not subsequently enroll must request readmission from the Office of Graduate Studies. This entails supplying current demographic information on the Graduate Application form and any additional transcripts of work completed after the initial admission. The Office of Graduate Studies retains the right to revoke the earlier admission on the basis of new information or limited resources. International students may be required to provide current financial information in order to receive a valid I-20 or IAP-66 immigration form if they wish to delay their initial enrollment.

A graduate student, formerly or currently enrolled, who wishes to pursue a degree objective other than the one originally sought, must initiate a formal application for the new program by filing a new graduate application form, supplementing existing records, and fulfilling any departmental requirements prior to review by the departmental Graduate Committee and the College. An application fee will be assessed only if a student is changing major areas of study or if a new file must be constructed for someone who has not registered through the Office of Graduate Studies for the past four years.

Registration:

All students must register for classes prior to the first day of the semester. Newly admitted graduate students are encouraged to arrive early, so they can be on campus to meet with their advisers prior to registration. Currently enrolled graduate students are urged to process early registrations to improve their chances of getting needed classes. Former graduate students are also eligible to register early **after** updating their status with the Graduate Studies Office. Registration for the first (fall) semester and for the summer sessions begins in mid-March; registration for the second (spring) semester begins in mid-October. The *Schedule of Classes* contains information about procedures and dates pertaining to registration. Additional questions concerning graduate registration procedures should be referred to the Office of Graduate Studies, 1100 Seaton Hall, (402) 472-2875.

Following admission to Candidacy the student must register for at least one credit hour during each academic-year semester until he/she receives the doctoral degree, even if the student has already met the total dissertation hours on their approved program of study. Failure to register during each academic-year semester will result in termination of the Candidacy.

Students admitted to the Economics Department are required to consult with an adviser. Non-degree students must obtain the permission of the instructor of the class and may not enroll in Master's thesis credits, doctoral dissertation credits, or doctoral seminars without permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Graduate students who have not been continuously enrolled in UNL Graduate Studies should complete a Graduate College Readmit Form (available in the Office of Graduate Studies or online). The Readmit Form is used to update a student's history in the computerized student information system thus making the Building, indicating the course was an audit and that you did attend. This option is not available unless the student is also registered for courses for credit in the same semester as the audit.

Graduate students may register for a maximum of 15 credit hours.

If a student wishes to drop all courses being taken in the term, this is considered a withdrawal. Withdrawals may be accomplished through the telephone registration system or by filing a Cancellation/Withdrawal form with the Registration Office, 107 Canfield Administration Building. Students may withdraw from classes, regardless of circumstance, from the first day of classes through the 3/4-point of the term.

Advising

The advisor to all new graduate students is the Director of Graduate Studies. Once a student's field of research or primary area of concentration has been determined, the student will be assigned to a major adviser.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fee rates are subject to change at the direction of the Board of Regents. For the current tuition and fees charges in effect, visit [UNL | Graduate Studies | Financial](#). The standard semester fee (but not tuition) is reduced for registrations under 7 credit hours. Summer Sessions fees, listed in the Summer Sessions class schedules, vary slightly from those charged during the fall and spring semesters. Statements for tuition and fees are mailed periodically throughout the registration period.

International Students

Prior to enrolling for academic credit, newly admitted students subject to the TOEFL requirement must complete on-campus English Placement Examinations conducted by English as a Second Language (ESL) program staff. The results of the examinations determine if ESL courses will be required in order to complete the English proficiency requirement. Exemptions from the EPE requirement are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a U.S. university or a university outside the U.S. at which English is the official language of instruction. Additionally, new students whose TOEFL scores are at least 600 (paper), 250 (computer), or 100 (internet) are required only to take the timed writing section of the EPE. The timed writing section can be completed in one hour. All other newly admitted non-native speakers of English must sit for the full English Placement Exam.

Apart from the necessity of being able to demonstrate acceptable English language skills, international students are admitted to degree programs, assigned advisers and supervisory committees, and are responsible for academic standards and progress on the same basis as domestic students. Foreign students and faculty advisers are encouraged to maintain close liaison with both the Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of International Affairs. Upon arrival in Lincoln, international students who have been admitted to UNL Graduate Studies should contact the Office of International Affairs, 420 University Terrace. An orientation program and the English Placement Examination are arranged by the staff of International Affairs. In addition, they can help students secure housing, obtain American host families, and receive guidance in all nonacademic matters.

Master of Arts Program

Although many students will pursue their Ph.D. program following completion of a Master's degree, well-prepared students are encouraged to apply directly to the Ph.D. program. A student initially admitted to and pursuing the Master's program may be permitted to continue in the Ph.D. program with or without completing the M.A. degree. The student must submit a new application for admission to the Ph.D. program along with three recent letters of recommendation.

Three options are available to MA students. Option I requires 30 hours of graduate credit while Options II and III require 36 hours, with a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. All candidates must demonstrate proficiency in microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, and econometrics by passing appropriate courses in each of these areas with grades of B or better in each course. Option II and III candidates are required to select a concentration in a sub-field within economics and undergo a written comprehensive examination in that field.

Option I. The Master's degree under Option I should be chosen by those who are preparing for careers in research and scholarly work or in college or university teaching. At least one-half of the required work, including thesis, must be taken in economics. Eight hours credit, in addition to the thesis, must be earned in courses open exclusively to graduate students (900 level or 800 level without 400 or lower counterparts). The thesis should reveal a capacity to carry on independent study or research and should demonstrate the student's ability to use the techniques employed in their field of investigation. The thesis must conform in style and form to specimens that may be examined in Love Memorial Library. An oral defense of the thesis is required.

Option II. This option encourages a wider range of courses than is permissible under Option I. This option requires, in addition to the sub-field concentration in economics, a minor field consisting of at least 9 credit hours in a department other than economics. A thesis is not required. The program must include not fewer than 18 hours in the economics department. At least 12 of the 36 hours must be earned in courses open exclusively to graduate students (900 or 800 level without 400 or lower counterparts).

Option III. The Master's degree under Option III is designed especially for the student who plans to continue scholarly work in a chosen field past the Master's level. Under this option, the student must earn a minimum of 36 semester hours of credit, at least 18 of which must be earned in courses open exclusively to graduate students (900 or 800 level without 400 or lower counterparts). The program must include not fewer than 18 hours in economics.

The following table summarizes the requirements of each Master's Degree program option in Economics.

	OPTION I THESIS	OPTION II APPLIED ECONOMICS	OPTION III PHD. LEADING
Microeconomics	Econ. *873 (or 973)	Econ. *873	Econ. 973
Macroeconomics	Econ. *874 (or 974)	Econ. *874	Econ. 974
Econometrics	Econ. 817 (or 957)	Econ 817	Econ. 957
Total Core Hours	9	9	9
Concentrations:	Major Area (9 cr.)	Major Area (9 cr.) Minor Field (external, 9 cr.)	Major Area (9 cr.)
Thesis:	Required (6-10 cr.)	Not Required	Not Required
Elective Course Hours	2-6	9	18
Total Hours	30	36	36
900 or *800 level hours required in program	8	12	18

(All courses taken for graduate credit must be at the 800 or 900 level. The *800 designation indicates the course has no 300 or 400 level counterpart.)

Major Advisor, Minor Advisor and Examination Committee: As soon as possible (typically in the second semester of full time study and before grades have been received in more than one-half of the program) students should select a field of concentration and find a member of the economics faculty willing to serve as his/her major advisor. If applicable, the student should also find a faculty member from the minor department willing to serve as minor advisors. The advisor(s) will assist in designing the memorandum of courses, determine the requirements for acceptable areas of concentration and assist in forming the Examination Committee. The major advisor will serve as the chair of the Examination Committee. The Examination Committee must consist of at least three faculty members including a representative of the Minor Department, if applicable. The Examination Committee will prepare and grade written exams and administer oral examinations.

Areas of Concentration: The following areas of concentration are *generally* available for Master's students, though not all of these fields are guaranteed to be available. The list is neither inflexible nor exhaustive. Students desiring to design a custom field may do so in collaboration with their major advisor and committee. The requirements for each area are determined by the major advisor, but must consist of a least nine credit hours of course work.

Comparative International and Regional development	Institutional economics
Econometrics	International trade and finance
Economic education	Labor economics
Economic history	Monetary economics
Industrial organization and Regulation	Public economics

Option I and III students may take a field in Economic Theory. This field consists of Econ 973, Econ 974, Econ 983 and Econ 984. The PhD. Qualifying exam serves as the comprehensive exam in this case.

First Year Schedule: Unless there are deficiencies that must be remedied, students should design their program of study beginning with the required theory and quantitative courses.

Typical Applied Economics M.A. (Option II)

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Econ 873	Econ 874
Econ 817	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Typical Ph.D. - leading M.A.

(Option III or Ph.D.)

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Econ 973	Econ 957
Econ 974	Econ 983
Econ 815	Econ 984
Stat 880 or 882	Elective

Students in the Ph.D. leading MA programs should take Stat 880 (Statistics) and Econ 815 (Analytic Methods) unless they have similar courses in their backgrounds.

Procedures for Master's Degree

1. *Admission* to UNL Graduate Studies by the evaluation of official transcripts of undergraduate work, presented in person or by mail prior to registration.
2. *Registration* by consultation with the chair of the Graduate Committee and the major adviser and with the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.
3. *Removal of admission deficiencies*.
4. *Memorandum of Courses*, required for Candidacy, must be filed before grades have been received in more than one-half of the program. **Note: student may not change options for the Master's degree after having been admitted to Candidacy.**
5. *Application for advanced degree* at the outset of the semester or session in which graduation is planned.
6. The *Final Examination Report* for the Master's degree must be received in the Office of Graduate Studies at least four weeks (three weeks in summer) before the final examination, if required, but in no case later than four weeks before the final date for oral examinations. The report will be accepted after all course work on the program of studies has been completed, or in progress, and any outstanding incompletes have been removed.
7. The presentation of a preliminary copy of the thesis and abstract to the Graduate Studies Office, two weeks (one week in summer) prior to the oral examination, if required. If the oral examination is waived, the preliminary copy of the thesis and abstract must be presented to the Office of Graduate Studies no later than two weeks before the final date for oral examinations for any given session.
8. Passing of *written examinations*, in major and minor field (if required) at least one week prior to the time the oral examination is to be taken.
9. Passing of an *oral examination*, if required, administered by the examining committee.
10. Deposition of two complete copies of the thesis and abstract in proper form, along with the Final Examination Report Form signed by the examining committee, to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Residency and Time Requirements A candidate for an Option I Master's degree must complete 10-12 semester hours of the required credit in regularly scheduled campus courses, excluding credit in thesis research; candidates for Option II or III Master's degrees must complete at least 18 hours in regularly scheduled campus courses. The work required for a Master's degree must be completed within ten consecutive years. Course work exceeding ten years will not apply toward the partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for Master's degrees at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Admission to Candidacy: A student is admitted to Candidacy for the Master's degree when admission deficiencies have been removed and when the ability to perform satisfactorily in graduate studies has been demonstrated, by filing a Memorandum of Courses in the Office of Graduate Studies. The Memorandum of Courses must be filed before the student has received grades (letter grades, no reports or incompletes) in more than one-half of the prescribed program. It must also be approved by the student's adviser, the departmental or area Graduate Committee, the Graduate Committee in the student's minor, and by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

A student may NOT file a Memorandum of Courses and graduate in the same semester or summer session.

Master's Thesis: The Master's thesis and abstract in preliminary form must be approved by the adviser prior to applying for the final oral examination or for its waiver (at least four weeks prior to the examination). A copy of the thesis and abstract in preliminary form must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval at least **two weeks** (one week in summer) prior to the final oral examination. This copy will be reviewed by the Master's degree specialist and returned to the student. See the current version of the Graduate Bulletin for a detailed description of the format of the thesis.

Comprehensive Examination: When a student's course work is nearly completed, he/she will be expected to undergo comprehensive written and/or oral examinations in his/her areas of concentration. M.A. comprehensive examinations are scheduled twice a year, in October and March. Students must have completed the Macroeconomics, Microeconomics and Econometrics requirements with a B or better and must have removed any incomplete or NR grade reports for courses on their *Memorandum of Courses*.

Students must have completed the courses in their major field. Students currently enrolled in field courses may take the exam only with permission of their major advisor.

The comprehensive examination in the minor field (written and/or oral) may be waived subject to the approval of the minor department provided all grades in the minor department are at least a B or pass. For students pursuing Option I, the written comprehensive exam may be waived and the oral comprehensive examination may focus on the student's Thesis research.

If a student fails to pass the final oral or written examination for an advanced degree, their committee must file a report on the failure in the Office of Graduate Studies and indicate what the student must do before taking another examination. He/she may be given a second opportunity, no earlier than at the next scheduled comprehensive examinations. Upon successful completion of the written examinations, the student will be given an oral examination by his/her Examination Committee.

Option III students are encouraged to substitute the PhD. qualifying exam in place of their comprehensive exam. Option I students may choose an oral examination focusing on their thesis research in place of a written comprehensive examination.

Doctor of Philosophy

Ph.D. students are expected to have intermediate level training in economics (both macroeconomics and microeconomics) in their backgrounds. In addition, Ph. D. students are expected to have adequate mathematical backgrounds including at least two semesters of calculus, a course in linear algebra, and a course in mathematical statistics. If an applicant does not have such background, students are advised to make up these deficiencies at the beginning of the doctoral program.

A student initially admitted to and pursuing the Master's program may be permitted to continue in the Ph.D. program with or without completing the M.A. degree. The student must submit a new application for admission to the Ph.D. program along with three recent letters of recommendation. Students initially pursuing the applied Master's program (Option II) who wish to be considered for the Ph.D. program will be likely to require additional time to complete the degree.

Requirements

The general requirements for earning the Ph.D. degree include the following:

1. 90 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B).
2. Proficiency in economic theory, demonstrated by passing the Qualifying Examination.
3. Proficiency in econometrics, demonstrated by taking Economics 957 and 958 (Econometrics I and II) and earning grades of B or better in each.
4. Proficiency in at least two major areas of concentration in economics. The course requirements for a major area of concentration are determined by the students supervisory committee, but must include at least two courses (6 credit hours) at the 900 or *800 level. Written and oral comprehensive examinations are required in all major areas.
5. A dissertation demonstrating original research in economics. A minimum of 12 hours of dissertation credit is required.

The following table sets out the course requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

Foundations: The foundations of the program are designed to assure that students have adequate training in mathematics and statistics in order to pursue advanced studies in economics.	Hours
Economics 815	1
Statistics 880 or 882	3
Total	4
Core: The core courses are provided to assure that students receive solid training in economic theory and econometrics. Students demonstrate mastery of theory by passing the Qualifying Examination in Advanced Economic Theory and mastery of econometrics by earning at least a B in each course.	
Economics 973 and 983, Microeconomics I and II	6
Economics 974 and 984, Macroeconomics I and II	6
Economics 957 and 958, Econometrics I and II	6
Total	18
Fields: At least two fields in economics are required. Each field requires a minimum of six hours of course work at the Ph.D. level (900 level) and a written comprehensive examination. (Typically students will take one or more 800 level courses in their fields of study.)	
Field I	6
Field II	6
Total	12
Electives: Students may include electives within economics or cognate areas, or may elect to have an optional third field.	14
Total course work	48
Dissertation: Students must demonstrate ability to conduct research by writing an original dissertation and defending that dissertation in an oral examination. Up to 42 credit hours may be used for this purpose.	42
Grand Total	90

Qualifying Exam: This examination is usually given in the week prior to the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. Students should plan to take the theory sequence in the first year, study over the summer and take the qualifying examination at the beginning of the second year. Students must take the examination no later than the third semester after their initial enrollment. Grades on the Qualifying Exam are “PhD. Pass,” “MA Pass,” or Fail. PhD. Students must receive a “PhD Pass” on both the Microeconomic and Macroeconomic portions of the exam. A student failing to obtain a “PhD. Pass” on either or both portions on the first try must retake the entire examination. A student failing to obtain a “PhD. Pass” for the second time must request permission of the Graduate Committee to retake the examination a third time. No further opportunities to take the examination are permitted. Students who receive an “MA Pass” may use this exam as their comprehensive examination to obtain an MA degree.

Appointment of Supervisory Committee: Once a Ph.D. student has demonstrated proficiency in both economic theory and econometrics, a supervisory committee will be established that will help guide the student’s research endeavors. The student must identify a faculty member that is willing and has the expertise to guide his/her research program. The student must submit to the Chair of the Graduate Committee a formal request that the supervisory committee be formed. Upon recommendation of the economics Graduate Committee, and before the student has fewer than 45 hours, the Dean of Graduate Studies appoints, a supervisory committee of at least four members of the Graduate faculty. The minor or related fields, if applicable, will be represented on the committee. At least one member of the Graduate Faculty external to the economics department must be included on the committee. The representative of the minor department on the committee may serve as the outside representative.

Program of Studies Within three weeks of its appointment, the supervisory committee will meet to designate and subsequently to file in the Office of Graduate Studies a complete program of studies. At least half of the total program of courses and dissertation research must be completed following submission of the program to the Office of Graduate Studies. Any subsequent change in the program or in the dissertation topic is approved by the supervisory committee and the action reported to the Office of Graduate Studies. The minimum amount of graduate credit is 90 semester hours, including a dissertation. Not fewer than 45 semester hours must be completed at the University of Nebraska after the filing of the program of studies. The PhD program will normally include a minimum of 12 hours and a maximum of 55 hours of dissertation research.

The Supervisory Committee will determine what course work taken prior to filing of a program of studies, including hours earned toward the Master’s degree(s), will be accepted as part of the 90- hour program. The Committee is not obligated to reduce the doctoral program of studies by applying all course work taken toward a previously earned Master’s degree(s). Prior course work should be assessed in relation to its contribution to framing a research foundation for the doctorate. Each course accepted must be determined to be current and relevant in relation to the desired degree.

Comprehensive Examinations: Following successful completion of the Qualifying Examinations, Ph.D. students must pass comprehensive examinations in two major concentrations within the economics department. These examinations are given in October and March of each year. All Incomplete, NR and Failing grades on the students program of studies must be removed prior to taking the written Comprehensive Examinations. The written Comprehensive Examinations are not a repetition of course examinations but are an investigation of the student’s breadth of understanding of the field of knowledge.

Upon successful completion of the written Comprehensive Examinations, the student’s Supervisory Committee will administer an oral examination. When the student has passed the comprehensive examination, the committee will recommend to the Office of Graduate Studies the doctoral student’s admission to Candidacy by filing the Application for Admission to Candidacy for the doctoral degree. The application must be filed at least seven months prior to the final oral examination (dissertation defense).

NOTE: Should the Supervisory Committee determine the student has failed the comprehensive examination, a letter must be submitted by the chair of the supervisory committee to the Dean of Graduate Studies stating the conditions under which the student may attempt another examination, or part thereof, not earlier than the next scheduled examination date.

Summary of Procedures for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree

1. *Admission* to UNL Graduate Studies by the evaluation of official transcripts presented in person or by mail before registration.
2. *Registration* after consultation with advisers in economics.
3. Appointment by the Office of Graduate Studies of a *supervisory committee* on the recommendation of the Economics Departmental Graduate Committee.
4. Submission to the Office of Graduate Studies of a program approved by the supervisory committee setting forth the complete plan of study for the degree.
5. Admission to Candidacy for the PhD degree by filing a report in the Office of Graduate Studies of the passing of the comprehensive examinations. (at least seven months before the final oral)
6. Filing of an application for the degree at the Office of Registration and Records. This application is effective during the current term only.
7. Presentation of the dissertation and the abstract to the members of the reading committee in sufficient time for review and approval, which must be obtained at least three weeks before the final examination.
8. Presentation to the Office of Graduate Studies of the application for final oral examination and a copy of the dissertation and abstract for preliminary review, at least three weeks prior to the date of the oral examination.
9. Passing of any required final oral examination.
10. Deposition of two copies of the dissertation in proper form with the Dean of University Libraries. Delivery of the certificate of deposit, signed by members of the supervisory committee, the Dean of University Libraries, and the Comptroller, to the Office of Graduate Studies. In addition, one bound copy of the dissertation is to be deposited with the Economics Department office.

Residency and Time Requirements: A minimum of three full years of graduate study is normally required to complete a program for the degree of doctor of philosophy. Neither the courses taken nor the time spent in study determines the granting of the degree. The Graduate College residency requirement for the PhD is 27 hours of graduate work within a consecutive 18-month period or less. The time limit on granting the doctoral degree is eight years from the time of filing the student's program of studies in the Office of Graduate Studies.

Language and Research Tool Requirement: There is no language or research tool requirement in the Department of Economics.

Final Examination: The final examination for the doctoral degree is oral and open to members of both the University community and the public. During the dissertation presentation and general questioning all persons may be present. However, at the end of the public hearing there will be a closed questioning portion of the examination where all persons except the Candidate, doctoral supervisory committee, and invited faculty must be excused. It is given by the supervisory committee after the Candidate's studies have been completed and the dissertation accepted. The committee also determines its character and length. The final oral examination over the dissertation may be waived only with the unanimous consent of the supervisory committee. If a student fails to pass the final oral examination for an advanced degree, their committee must file a report on the failure in the Office of Graduate Studies and indicate what the student must do before taking another examination. Another examination may not be held during the same semester or the same summer session in which the student failed.

Dissertation

Each Ph.D. student must complete a doctoral dissertation. The dissertation must involve a substantial research project in economics and provide evidence of the candidate's ability to carry on independent, original research in his/her field. It should show the technical mastery of their field and advance or modify former knowledge, i.e., it should treat new material, or find new results, or draw new conclusions, or it should interpret old material in a new light.

Ph.D. students must submit a tentative outline of the dissertation that identifies the research topic and methodology to be used for the Supervisor Committee for approval.

The following suggestions are offered to students regarding the dissertation:

- 1.** Begin thinking about possible dissertation topics early in your doctoral studies and have several potential ideas in mind well before the completion of formal course work. Search for suitable topics in courses, seminars, and research assignments. Ask for suggestions from professors and practitioners in the field of interest.
- 2.** Select a dissertation project which is manageable with respect to (a) resources, (b) methodology and (c) time.
- 3.** Explore the topic area sufficiently to determine its feasibility and to make certain that it has not been explored before, or is not currently under active investigation.
- 4.** Develop a tentative outline early, but keep it flexible to permit changes.
- 5.** Follow the precise guidelines for the format of the dissertation published in the current Graduate Bulletin.
- 6.** Students may need to develop facility in writing scientific English before they begin dissertation research and should consult their dissertation advisor if such help is needed.

Financial Assistance

Departmental Graduate Assistantships: A holder of a graduate assistantship must be admitted to the economics department with a specific graduate degree objective and must be enrolled for credit during the tenure of the assistantship. Students who hold graduate assistantships may not work more than half time, or 20 hours per week, all jobs considered, including the assistantship(s).

Duties of graduate assistants include instructing undergraduate courses and assisting faculty members in research, grading, and record keeping. Assistants devote 15 to 18 hours per week to the performance of their assignments. Teaching assistants must take Econ 852, Teaching College Economics and Business.. International graduate students who wish to be employed as teaching assistants at UNL must pass the International Teaching Assistant Institute after passing the SPEAK test.

Tuition remission of up to 12 hours per semester and 6 hours in the summer semester is provided as a benefit of eligible assistantship employment with the presumption that the benefit will remit tuition on courses that will prepare the student for successful completion of the degree program. Upon review, use of the benefit for frivolous or ancillary courses that don't meet this guideline could result in loss of the tuition benefit for such courses. Another benefit to students holding eligible assistantships is basic individual student health insurance coverage at reduced cost to the student for the premiums. If a graduate assistant resigns or terminates the assistantship during the semester before four full months of service, all tuition benefits will be lost. The student then is responsible for the total tuition payment and health insurance premiums.

Assistantships are awarded on an annual basis. Normally, students pursuing the M.A. degree are eligible for assistantship funding during their first two years of matriculation and Ph.D. students are eligible for assistantship funding during their first four years of matriculation. Ph.D. students who enter with a Master's degree are eligible for funding during the first three years of matriculation. Students who begin in the M.A. program and then transferring to the Ph.D. program are eligible for funding during their first four years in the graduate program. A student's assistantship is normally renewable if his/her academic and work performance is satisfactory. The maximum duration of Ph.D. assistantships is 5 years (4 years with a prior Master's degree).

Continuing students wishing to be considered for an assistantship must be in "good standing", be following an approved program of study and the student's assistantship performance must be judged to be satisfactory by his or her supervisor.

University Fellowships: New students must be nominated by their departments for all awards. Current or previously enrolled students with fewer than 9 graduate credit hours in residence at UNL are eligible to apply for only the Regents Tuition Fellowships. Endowed fellowships are available **only** to students who have completed at least 9 hours of graduate credit in residence at UNL. Submission of a completed *Application for Graduate Fellowships* form is required for consideration for endowed fellowships. Students are encouraged to consult the Graduate Bulletin and Graduate Studies Web site www.unl.edu/gradstudies for information on University Graduate Fellowships.

Department Fellowships:

Bingham Fellowships: The Robert C. and Patricia N. Bingham Economics Fellowship Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation is dedicated to providing financial assistance to those planning a teaching career in economics at the post-secondary level. Each fellowship of \$2,000 will supplement a graduate assistantship for one academic year. Recipients will be allowed to reapply each year.

The following criteria will be used by the Economics Graduate Committee in making an award:

- a. Recipient must be admitted to the Economics Graduate Program.
- b. Recipient who has been enrolled in the Program must have made satisfactory progress.
- c. Recipient shall have expressed an intention to pursue a college or university teaching career and have demonstrated an interest through outstanding teaching performance or potential.

First-time applicants to the Graduate Program may apply for a Fellowship by submitting a carefully written statement of interest in college-level teaching. This statement should be distinct from the statement of purpose requested in the application for admission and should focus on the applicant's intention to pursue a teaching career. The statement should not exceed two pages. Continuing graduate students may apply for a Fellowship by submitting a carefully written statement of teaching interest and experience. The statement should not exceed two pages. Up to three additional pages of supporting materials (letter of support, teaching evaluations, etc.) may be submitted as well.

McConnell Research Fellowships: The Campbell R. McConnell Fund for Excellence in Economics at the University of Nebraska Foundation provides dissertation fellowships to one or more Ph.D. candidates in the dissertation stage. Each fellowship award is \$15,000. To apply, submit a proposal describing your dissertation research in ten pages or less and include a letter of support from your Ph.D. advisor. All materials should be sent to the Graduate Committee Chair. The Economics Graduate Committee selects the award recipient based on its evaluation of the proposal's a) potential contribution to the discipline; b) clarity in definition of the problem, research methods and objectives and; c) overall feasibility.

Department Awards:

McConnell Outstanding Graduate Student Research Prize: The Economics Graduate Committee will select and present the "McConnell Outstanding Graduate Student Research" prize to recognize outstanding research productivity on the behalf of a currently enrolled graduate student.

The recipient will receive an award of \$250 from the McConnell Fund for Excellence in Economics, established by the McGraw-Hill Foundation. The recipient must be a currently enrolled student in good standing in the Economics Doctoral Program, must have passed the Qualifying Examination and *must present an original research paper in the Department Seminar Series*. The Graduate Committee will determine the recipient based on the academic quality of the student's research embodied in the Seminar paper.

Economics Graduate Assistant Distinguished Teaching Award: This award is intended to recognize graduate students who provide accomplished classroom teaching and who work to enhance the undergraduate experience at UNL. Award recipients are chosen by the department's Undergraduate Committee and the award shall consist of a certificate of recognition and a modest honorarium whenever possible. The award(s) will be presented in April of each year.

Academic Regulations:

Transfer Credit: In certain cases, academic work performed at other institutions can be counted towards the degree earned at UNL. Subject to the limitations of the Graduate College, the individual student's committee decides whether credit will be given for work done elsewhere. No graduate credits will be accepted as transfer credit toward a Master's program at UNL if the course work is 10 years or older or if the course work has been applied toward a previous Master's degree at UNL or any other accredited institution. Not less than 50 percent of the course work (excluding thesis) of the minimum number of graduate credits required for any Master's degree must be completed at the University of Nebraska. No *graduate* credits will be accepted as transfer credits unless earned at an institution fully accredited to offer graduate work in the field of the student's major. Approval of the Office of Graduate Studies is required for the transfer of graduate work taken elsewhere to a graduate degree program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. It is the responsibility of the student to insure that official transcripts of graduate work taken elsewhere are sent by the institution where the work was completed and received by the Office of Graduate Studies well before the student plans to graduate.

Grading System: The University uses an A through F grading system. The letter grades with point value (in parentheses) are: A+ (4.0), A (4.0), A- (3.67), B+ (3.33), B (3.0), B- (2.67), C+ (2.33), C (2.0), C- (1.67), D+ (1.33), D (1.0), D- (0.67), and F (0). Grades of W (dropped/withdrew), I (incomplete), P (pass/C or better), and N (no pass) may also be given. W, I, P, and N are not assigned grade points.

Scholastic Grade Requirements The Graduate College imposes the following requirements:

1. A minimum grade of B is required for graduate credit in 800-level courses with 400 or lower counterparts within the student's major department or area. A grade of B- is not acceptable.
2. A minimum grade of C or P (pass) is required for graduate credit in 800-level courses in minor, collateral, or supporting areas of work. A grade of C- is not acceptable.
3. A minimum grade of C or P (pass) is required for graduate credit in 900-level courses, or 800-level courses without 400 or lower counterparts. When applied toward an advanced degree program, only courses at the 900 level, or 800 level **without** 400 or lower counterparts, **in the major department or interdepartmental area** may be taken on a pass/no pass (P/N) basis. In **minor, collateral, or supporting areas of work** 800-level courses with 400 or lower counterparts can be taken on a P/N basis. A student failing to receive a minimum acceptable grade for graduate-level credit may not continue his/her program of studies without permission of the supervisory group or the departmental graduate committee.
4. The Economic Department further stipulates that no economics graduate student can take a course in the economics department on a P/N basis.

Annual Review of Graduate Students Graduate students in the Economics Department are expected to maintain a high level of achievement in their graduate studies. Accordingly, each spring graduate students will be expected to submit materials detailing his or her progress. These materials will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee to determine if the student remains in “*good standing*”, as defined by:

1. Obtaining a minimum grade of B in all 800-level courses with 400 or lower counterparts within the Economics Department. A grade of B- is not acceptable.
2. Obtaining a minimum grade of C or P (pass) in all 800-level courses in minor, collateral, or supporting areas of work.
3. Obtaining a minimum grade of C or P (pass) in all 900-level courses, or 800-level courses without 400 or lower counterparts.
4. Maintaining an overall grade point average of 3.0.
5. Timely completion of qualifying examinations, comprehensive examinations or final degree examinations, subject to provisions of the Graduate Handbook.
6. Making minimally acceptable progress.

For PhD. students this means:

At the end of the first year, the removal of all deficiencies.

At the end of the second year, passing the Qualifying Examination in economic theory.

At the end of the third year, completion of the econometrics requirements.

At the end of the fourth year, passing all written and oral comprehensive examinations and admission to Candidacy.

At the end of the fifth year, a written dissertation proposal accepted by the student’s Supervisory Committee.

In subsequent years, significant progress on Dissertation work.

For MA students this means:

At the end of the first year, the removal of all deficiencies.

At the end of the second year, passing the core theory and econometric courses and filing the Memorandum of Courses with Graduate Studies.

At the end of the third year, passing all written and oral comprehensive examinations.

In subsequent years, significant progress on Thesis work.

In the event that a student fails to maintain “good standing”, the Graduate committee may recommend probation, termination of financial assistance and/or termination of the student’s degree program.

Probation and Termination of UNL Graduate Students The Graduate School may impose probation or terminate a student’s program under the following conditions: a) violations of the “Student Code of Conduct” b) failure to satisfy “Scholastic Grade Requirements”, c) failure in qualifying examinations, preliminary examinations, comprehensive examinations or final degree examinations, and d) failure to master the methodology and content of one’s field in a manner that is sufficient to complete a successful thesis or dissertation. Termination recommendations may also be made if a student fails to satisfy conditions required for removal of probationary status. Only with the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies may a student continue to register for course work on a non-degree seeking basis. No student on probation may receive a graduate degree.

Appeals Graduate students holding admission with a doctoral objective in the Graduate College and for whom a doctoral supervisory committee has been appointed should appeal as follows:

1. Initially, the appeal should be submitted to the student’s adviser.
2. If denied, the appeal may be submitted to the student’s supervisory committee.
3. If denied, the appeal may be submitted to the economics Graduate Committee.
4. If denied, an appeal may be made to the UNL Graduate Council for the campus administratively responsible for the student’s graduate program.

In all cases, appeals should be made in writing to the appropriate adviser, committee, or council. In those cases where the appeal concerns graduate-level qualifying examinations, comprehensive examinations, or final examinations, the following deadlines must be observed. It is the responsibility of the student to make reasonable efforts to ascertain the results of the examination within 30 days after its completion. The initiation of the appeal, in writing, by the student must be filed within 30 days following the student's receipt of notification of the evaluation. In those cases involving an appeal of termination of program, initiation of the appeal, in writing, by the student must be filed within 30 days following the student's receipt of the official written notification by the Office of Graduate Studies.

Students who believe their evaluation in a course has been prejudiced or capricious must first attempt to resolve the matter with the course instructor. If unsuccessful, the student may then file a written appeal to the Graduate Chair for consideration by the Graduate Committee responsible for the administration of the course. This appeal must be filed within sixty days of the posting of the grade report by the UNL Records Office. If the department does not have a graduate program, the standing grade appeal committee of the department would consider the appeal. A written determination of the appeal shall be presented to the student and instructor. If the matter is unduly delayed or not resolved, the student may present the original appeal documentation to the UNL Dean of Graduate Studies who shall request a review by a subcommittee of the Graduate Council. A last appeal may be made to the full Graduate Council, if it agrees to hear the case.

Concentrations:

The following areas of concentration are generally available for graduate study in economics. The list is neither inflexible nor exhaustive. Students desiring to design a custom field may do so in collaboration with their committee. The core areas of theory and econometrics are listed first. Other fields follow in alphabetical order.

ECONOMIC THEORY

- 873 Microeconomic Models and Applications**
- 874 Macroeconomics Models and Applications**
- 973 Advanced Microeconomic Theory I**
- 974 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory I**
- 983 Advanced Microeconomic Theory II**
- 984 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory II**

ADDITIONAL COURSES COMPLEMENTING THEORY

- 833 History of Economic Thought**
- 900 Seminar in Economic Theory and Policy**

ECONOMETRICS

- 817 Introductory Econometrics:**
- 957 Econometrics I**
- 958 Econometrics II**
- 959 Topics in Econometrics I**
- 960 Topics in Econometrics II**

COMPARATIVE, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 823 Economics of the Less-Developed Countries**
- 840 Regional Development**
- 842 Regional Analysis**
- 887 Economies in Transition**
- 923 Seminar in Development Economics**

ECONOMIC EDUCATION

- 850 [850f] Economics for Teachers**
- 852 Teaching College Economics and Business**
- 853 Economics of Education**
- 854 Economic Education Research**
- 954 Seminar in Economic Education Research**

ECONOMIC HISTORY

- 857 U.S. Economic History (also History 857)**
- 858 U.S. Economic History (also History 858)**
- 975. Seminar in Economic and Business History**

INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND REGULATION

- 826 Public Utility Economics**
- 835 Industrial Organization**
- 927 Seminar in Industrial Organization**
- 966 Seminar in Antitrust and Public Policy**

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

- 872 Efficiency in Government**
- 875 Theory and Analysis of Institutional Economics**
- 900 Seminar in Economic Theory & Policy**

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

- 821 International Trade**
- 822 International Finance**
- 921 Seminar in International Trade and Finance**

LABOR ECONOMICS

- 860 Wage and Salary Administration (Management)**
- 881 Economics of the Labor Market**
- 882 Labor in the National Economy**
- 885 Government and Labor**
- 981 Seminar in Labor Economics**

MONETARY THEORY AND POLICY

- 803 Money and the Financial System**
- 804 Current Issues in Monetary Economics**
- 903 Seminar in Monetary Economics**
- 965 Seminar in Banking Finance**

PUBLIC ECONOMICS

- 871 Public Finance**
- 872 Efficiency in Government**
- 971 Public Expenditure, Taxation, and Fiscal Incidence**
- 972 Fiscal Theory and its Applications**
- 977 Seminar in Public Finance**

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

A full selection of courses in agricultural economics is offered in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Students interested in this area may select courses to comprise a field in consultation with their committee.

FACULTY

ALLGOOD, Sam, Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1993, Professor.
Areas: Microeconomics, Public Economics, Labor Economics.

ANDERSON, John E., Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School, 1977, Professor.
Areas: Public Economics, Urban Economics and Microeconomic Theory.

ASARTA, Carlos J., Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2007, Assistant Professor of Practice.
Areas: Economics Education, International Economics

BUTTERS, Roger B., Ph.D. University of California-Davis, 2003, Assistant Professor.
Areas: International Finance and Economic Education.

CUSHING, Matthew J., Ph.D., University of Virginia, 1985, Professor.
Areas: Macroeconomics and Econometrics.

EDWARDS, Richard, Ph.D., Harvard University, 1972, Professor.
Area: Labor.

FUESS, Scott, Ph.D., Purdue University, 1986, Professor and Chair, Department of Economics.
Areas: Labor Economics, Econometrics, Industrial Organization, and Macroeconomics

GIERTZ, Seth H., Ph.D., Syracuse University, 2001, Assistant Professor of Economics.
Areas: Public Finance, Taxation, Labor Economics, Urban & Regional Economics

HAYDEN, F. Gregory, Ph.D., University of Texas, 1968, Professor.
Areas: Institutional Economics, Public Economics, and Systems Planning.

KIM, Benjamin J. C., Ph.D., UCLA, 1983, Associate Professor.
Areas: Monetary Economics, Macroeconomics, and International Finance.

MAC PHEE, Craig R., Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1970, Professor.
Areas: International Trade and Investment, and Commercial Policy.

MAY, Ann Mari, Ph.D., Colorado State University, 1988, Professor.
Areas: U.S. Economic History, Women's Labor History and Macroeconomic Stabilization Policy.

MC GARVEY, Mary G., Ph.D., University of Virginia, 1983, Associate Professor.
Areas: Applied Econometrics, Health care, Public Policy.

ROSENBAUM, David, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1985, Professor.
Area: Industrial Organization, Forensic Economics.

SCHMIDT, James R. Ph.D., Rice University, 1978, Professor.
Area: Econometrics.

THOMPSON, Eric C., Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1990, Associate Professor and Director of the
Bureau of Business Research. .
Areas: Regional Economics, Local & State Economic Development, Economic Forecasting

VAN DEN BERG, Hendrik, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1989, Associate Professor.
Areas: International Trade, International Finance, and Trade & Development.

WALSTAD, William B., Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1978, Professor and Director of the
Economic Education Unit.
Areas: Economic Education and Economics of Education.