



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revision of the PhD program in Economics, Department of Economics, College of LAS

SPONSOR: Mattias Polborn, Professor of Economics, 333-4595, polborn@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Karen Carney, Associate Dean-LAS Administration, 333-1350, kmcarney@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: We seek to introduce the option for students to enter the Ph.D. program in Economics with an approved master's degree, at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Students who are approved for this option would have a 24 hours lower hours requirement for completing their PhD degree, corresponding to the classes in the first year of the PhD program.

JUSTIFICATION: The proposed change seeks to establish a uniform treatment between students who enter the PhD program directly, and those students who have already completed coursework that is substantially equivalent to the requirements of the first year of the PhD program. In particular, the main group that we seek to help with the proposed change are those PhD students who transfer in from the "PhD track" of our department's Master of Science in Policy Economics (MSPE) program.

The overwhelming majority of our PhD students (~90%) enters the PhD program in Economics with a BA or non-UIUC MA degree. These students have to take 24 credit hours of mandatory classes in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics in the first year, followed by a qualifying exam in these subjects. After the first year, these students have to take another 24 credit hours of advanced PhD courses ("field classes") in economics. No change is sought for these students.

A minority of about 10% of our PhD students transfers to the program from the PhD track of the MSPE program. These students spend 2 years in the MSPE program; during the first one, they mainly take preparatory and other economics courses, while during the second year, they take the classes which are mandatory for the first year PhD students. If they have a minimum GPA of 3.5 for these classes, they are allowed to take the qualifying examinations of the PhD program after this year, and if they pass, they are accepted into the PhD program in economics. Effectively, when they enter, they have the status of second-year PhD students, because they already passed all first year PhD

requirements while in the MSPE program.

Under the current regulations, their first-year PhD classes (taken in their second year in the MSPE program) are counted toward their MSPE-master's degree, and therefore cannot be used for the PhD requirements. Effectively, this means that these students would have to take 24 credit hours of additional field courses, which is difficult and not at all helpful for their PhD degree.

The current regulations also creates an effectively different treatment between the two classes of PhD students mentioned: The majority of students who enter our PhD program directly can obtain a master's degree on their way to the PhD, and for them "using" their first year classes for the master's degree does not prevent them from using the same classes for the PhD afterwards. In contrast, the students who transferred from the MSPE program cannot do an analogous thing.

The proposed change fixes this problem, by reducing the course requirements for entrants with an approved master's degree by 24 credit hours (i.e., exactly the number of hours corresponding to the first year PhD classes that MSPE transfer students took while being in the MSPE program).

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budgetary or staff implications of this proposal. The number of affected PhD students will be about 2 per year (10% of our class size), and they will have a somewhat lower demand for PhD field classes than in the absence of a change. However, a change in the number of course offerings is not anticipated either way.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: As soon as possible

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Entering with approved B.S./B.A. degree

Macroeconomic theory	8
Microeconomic theory	8
Statistics and econometrics	8
Field electives	24
Workshop and research seminar	16
ECON 599 Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	32
Total Hours	96

Other Requirements¹

Other Requirements may overlap	
Research paper must be submitted prior to the start of the third year of study and be approved by the end of the third year	
Master's Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	No
Qualifying Exam Required	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

¹ For additional details and requirements refer to the department's [graduate programs](#) and the [Graduate College Handbook](#).

Entering with approved M.S/M.A. degree

Field electives	24
Workshop and research seminar	16
ECON 599 Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	32
Total Hours	72

Other Requirements¹

Other Requirements may overlap	
Research paper must be submitted prior to the start of the second year of study and be approved by the end of the second year	
Master's Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	Yes

Qualifying Exam Required	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

Martin K Perry
Unit Representative:

4/9/15
Date:

Karen W Carney
College Representative:

4/30/15
Date:

[Signature]
Graduate College Representative:

5/19/2015
Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.16.06

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



August 5, 2015

Bettina Francis, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to revise the Ph.D. in Economics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn A. Martensen".

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney
M. Perry
M. Polborn
J. Hart
A. McKinney

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate College

204 Coble Hall
801 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



RECEIVED

MAY 21 2015

Office of the Provost

Executive Committee

May 19, 2015

2014-2015 Members

Kathy Martensen
Office of the Provost
207 Swanlund MC-304

Sarah Lubinski, Interim
Dean & Chair
Graduate College

Dear Kathy,

Members

Enclosed please find the proposal seeking revision to the Ph.D. program in Economics.

Abbas Aminmansour
Architecture

The proposal was received by the Graduate College on April 30, 2015. It was forwarded to the Executive Committee for review at the May 12, 2015 meeting. The Executive Committee noted that the proposal is clear and includes strong justification. The proposed change reduces the hours necessary for the Ph.D. program when students enter with an approved Master's degree. The change would affect approximately 10% of Ph.D. students.

Dilip Chhajed
Business Administration

The proposal was approved by the Executive Committee at the May 12, 2015 meeting.

Wojciech Chodzko-Zajko
Kinesiology & Community
Health

I send the proposal to you now for further review.

Susan Cole
Social Work

Sincerely,

John D'Angelo
Mathematics

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Hart'.

John C. Hart
Associate Dean
Graduate College

Nicki Engeseth
Food Science & Human
Nutrition

Susan Fowler
Special Education

c: K. Carney
M. Perry
M. Polborn

Marie Heffeman
Psychology

Paul Hergenrother
Chemistry

Jack Juvik
Crop Sciences

Samantha Knoll
Mechanical Science &
Engineering

John Lambros
Aerospace Engineering

Glaucio Paulino
Civil & Environmental
Engineering

Dana Rabin
History

Carla Santos
Recreation, Sport and
Tourism

Renée Trilling
English

Name of existing Illinois (UIUC) degree: _____

Name of non-Illinois partnering institution: _____

Location of non-Illinois partnering institution:

State of Illinois US State: _____ Foreign country: _____

- B. Proposal to create a new academic unit (college, school, department, program or other academic unit):

Name of proposed new unit: _____

- C. Proposal to rename an existing academic unit (college, school, department, or other academic unit):

Current name of unit: _____

Proposed new name of unit: _____

- D. Proposal to reorganize existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or program):

1. Proposal to change the status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)

Name of current unit including status: _____

2. Proposal to transfer an existing unit:

Current unit's name and home: _____

Proposed new home for the unit: _____

3. Proposal to merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B):

Name and college of unit one to be merged: _____

Name and college of unit two to be merged: _____

Proposed name and college of new (merged) unit: _____

4. Proposal to terminate an existing unit:

Current unit's name and status: _____

- E. **Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.) _____

Nature of the proposal: _____

Revised 10/2012

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

2090 Lincoln Hall
702 S. Wright Street, MC-448
Urbana, IL 61801



April 30, 2015

Sarah Lubienski
Interim Dean, Graduate College
204 Coble Hall MC-322

Dear Dean Lubienski:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula, on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

Revision of the PhD in Economics

Please let me know if you have any questions on this proposal. This proposal is now ready for review by the Graduate College for proposed implementation upon approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen M. Carney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Karen M. Carney
Associate Dean

enclosure

C: Professor Marty Perry
Professor Mattias Polborn