

# **Graduate Student Handbook for The John E. Walker Department of Economics 2020-2021**

## **Overview**

The Department faculty members teach and publish regularly. This manual outlines the policies and procedures in the Ph.D. program.

The goal of the Ph.D. program is to educate students in the basics of microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, econometrics, and in their application to a Primary and Secondary Field of study, culminating in the writing and defending of the Ph.D. dissertation. Our training is rigorous, with an emphasis on the application, implementation, and interpretation of mathematically rigorous models to a wide variety of phenomena that lend themselves to logical analysis.

The program is designed to start in the Fall semester. During the 42 credit hours' worth of graded coursework, knowledge is assessed via a combination of graded coursework, qualifying examinations in Core subjects (microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, and econometrics), and qualifying examinations and/or papers in the Primary Field. Aside from coursework, competence is assessed via students' written work in the form of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year papers, presented in the Workshop of their choice, and, ultimately, the Dissertation itself (18 credit hours). Ph.D. students have written dissertations on a wide range of topics, which can be viewed here, <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/theses-and-dissertations/index.html>.

The dissertations written by Clemson Ph.D. students are testament to the fact that virtually any topic can be analyzed within the framework of economics, and that our faculty are ready and willing to help them do so.

Our goal is to provide students the tools to prepare them for jobs both academic and non-academic, private and public-sector, and domestic and international.

Students must demonstrate competence by passing core course sequences in the initial year of study and subsequent qualifying exams in economic theory and econometrics. In their second and third years, students choose two concentrations from the fields of economic growth, environmental economics, financial economics, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, monetary economics, and public economics, among others. Students begin developing a research program by writing and submitting papers in their second and third years of study. In addition, all students beyond the first year must attend a weekly workshop in their chosen field(s), where they will have the opportunity to present their research and receive feedback from the faculty and other graduate students. Successful students will have chosen a main Ph.D. advisor no later than the start of their fourth year, and will write and defend their dissertation within four or five years.

## Contact Information

The John E. Walker Department of Economics is located at:

225 Walter T. Cox Blvd., Suite N-320  
College of Business  
864-656-3481  
864-656-4192 (fax)

The Graduate Program Coordinator for the Ph.D. program is:

Professor: Curtis Simon  
225 Walter T Cox Blvd., Suite N-312F  
864-656-3966  
[cjsmn@clemsun.edu](mailto:cjsmn@clemsun.edu)

## Admission Requirements

The Department of Economics requires that students have demonstrated academically distinguished records at the undergraduate and, if applicable, the graduate level. To apply to any of these programs, follow the instructions at the Graduate School page at [www.grad.clemson.edu/admission/index.php](http://www.grad.clemson.edu/admission/index.php) and complete the online application.

### Coursework

Students need not have majored in Economics, but must have coursework at least through Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (the equivalent of our ECON 3140) and mathematics at least through multivariate calculus (our MTHSC 2070). Applicants to the Ph.D. program must have taken the GRE examination; we look for quantitative scores in the 160s, but are somewhat flexible on verbal scores.

### Transfer of Credit

As rule, the Department does not allow transfer of credit for Ph.D. courses taken at other institutions, a rule that is stricter than that of the University as a whole. The reason for this policy is that in our experience, even students from well-ranked programs do not always have the knowledge that our Department expects in order to pass the Qualifying Examination in Economic Theory.

### Deadlines

Formally, the deadline for application to the Ph.D. program is January 15 of the Spring semester. In practice, the Department of Economics has evaluated applications on a rolling basis, that is, both (shortly) prior to the formal deadline, and afterward throughout the Spring semester. That said, applicants who desire full consideration for funding in the Ph.D. program should have completed their application by January 15; applications received after that date will still be considered for funding, but do not have the same chances.

## **Tuition and Fees**

Tuition and fees are set by Board of Trustees during their July meeting for the upcoming academic year. The most recent information on tuition and fees is available at <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/finance-tuition/>. The Department of Economics is classified as a Tier 3 Program. Students on Graduate Assistantship have their tuition waived, but must pay Full Time Graduate Assistant Fees each semester. A student must take at least nine- credit hours per semester in the fall and spring to be full time.

All graduate students are required to have health insurance. Students who are already covered by policies that meet the University's requirements are eligible for waivers. All others are covered by the Clemson University Student Insurance Plan. A description of the plan is available at <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/health-insurance.html>. Fees are included with tuition and fees for Fall and Spring semesters (summer premium is included in the Spring semester) and students are automatically enrolled. Fees for the Clemson University Student Insurance are subsidized by the Graduate School. A description of the subsidy for is available at <https://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/student-health/insurance-and-billing.html>.

## **I. Requirements for the PhD**

### **Credit Hours**

The Ph.D. in Economics requires 60 hours of coursework: 42 hours of graded coursework, plus 18 thesis hours. A full-time course load is considered to be 9 hours per semester, and students should, through the dissertation, generally be enrolled full time. Core Economic Theory and Econometrics courses are taken during the first three semesters. Starting with the second year in the program, PhD students are expected to take two Field courses each semester. Students must demonstrate proficiency in two Fields, one of which is to be designated Primary and the other Secondary.

### **Required Courses**

#### **A. Economic Theory**

Ph.D. students are required to take courses in mathematical economics (ECON 8040), microeconomic theory (ECON 8010, 8020, and 9010), macroeconomic theory (ECON 8050, plus dynamic macro ECON 8980).

#### **B. Econometrics**

Ph.D. students are required to take two econometrics courses (ECON 8060, ECON 8070) during their first year, and a third course (ECON 8080, 9090, others possible) during subsequent years.

### **Qualifying Examination in Economic Theory**

1. Ph.D. students are expected to sit for the Qualifying Examination during the first week of classes in their third semester in the program, and once at the beginning of each subsequent semester if they do not pass the Examination.
2. The Qualifying Examination will be comprised of material covered in the courses ECON 8010 (Micro I), 8020 (Micro II), 8040 (Applied Math Econ), and 8050 (Macro Theory).

3. The exam will be no longer than four hours in duration.
4. Questions for the Qualifying Examination in Economic Theory, starting this Spring, will be solicited from the Economics Faculty as a whole. These questions should be crafted with the Core theory material in mind, and may be a straightforward application (for example, constrained optimization), or written so as to elicit from students their ability to apply basic principles to new situations. Priority will be given to questions for which point counts and detailed answers are supplied.
5. Every effort will be made to inform students whether they pass or fail the Qualifying Examination no later than thirty-one days after taking the Examination.
6. Students on stipend who do not pass the Qualifying Examination in their first attempt may receive a reduced stipend in the subsequent semester.
7. Students who fail the Qualifying Examination in their first attempt must retake the examination at its next administration, which will be the first week of the following semester.
8. A student on stipend who successfully passes the Qualifying Examination on this second try will be eligible to have their stipend restored retroactively to the start of the relevant academic year.
9. A student who twice fails to pass the Qualifying Examination must take the Qualifying Examination at its next administration. Such students who are on stipend will only be eligible for non-reduced stipends if they successfully pass the examination this third time. Any student failing the Qualifying Examination for the third time (1) will become ineligible for Departmental support, including tuition, starting the subsequent semester, and (2) will be advised to complete their studies as soon as possible. In most cases, students will have acquired credits sufficient to earn an MA (en-route).
10. Students who neglect to take or retake the Qualifying Examination at the next available opportunity will be considered to have failed the Qualifying Examination.

### **Competence in Game Theory and Dynamic Macroeconomics**

1. Students must demonstrate competence in Game Theory (ECON 9010) and Dynamic Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 8990).
2. Competence is defined as earning at least a B in one course and no lower than a C in the other course.
3. Students who fail to earn a B in at least one of these two courses will be required to earn a B on the final exam in ONE course, the next time the final is offered (as in ECON 8070.)

## **Proficiency in Econometrics**

1. Proficiency in econometrics is established by taking and passing a three-course sequence in econometric theory.
2. Students in their first year take a two-course sequence, ECON 8060 and 8070. Students who earn a grade of B on the Final Examination in ECON 8070 will be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for proficiency in econometrics. Students who fail to earn a B will have an opportunity to retake the Final Exam the following year. It is understood that students retaking the Final Examination will take the same Examination as that given to first-year students.
3. Students who fail to earn a grade of B or better on the ECON 8070 Final Examination on their second attempt will be advised to complete their studies with an MA degree. As in the case of failing the Qualifying Examination, the best course of action remaining is to write and defend an MA thesis.
4. Students must also take a course in either cross-section (ECON 8080) or time series (Econ 9090) econometrics and must pass the course with a grade of B or better. All students, regardless of specialization, are strongly advised to take ECON 8080 (Advanced Cross Section Econometrics). However, students who choose Monetary and Macroeconomics as their Primary Field of specialization may, with the permission of the Graduate Program Coordinator, substitute ECON 9090 (Time Series Econometrics) for ECON 8080.

## **Primary Field**

The Department of Economics offers eight Primary Fields:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Financial Economics
- Growth and Development
- Industrial Organization
- International Economics
- Labor Economics
- Monetary and Macroeconomics
- Public Economics

The Primary Field requirement is satisfied by (1) taking the required courses and (2) either taking and passing a written and/or oral Field Examination or writing a satisfactory Field Paper. Further information is available below.

Students demonstrate proficiency in their Primary Field by taking at least two approved courses and passing a Field Exam. Students must pass at least one Primary Field Exam before being advanced to candidacy. Any student who fails to pass a Field Examination by the Spring semester of their third year in the program will receive a reduced stipend from the department. Any student failing to pass a field examination by start of their fourth year in the program will be ineligible for any departmental financial support.

## **Secondary Field**

Students demonstrate proficiency in their Secondary Field by taking a designated two-course sequence. The Secondary Field requirement is satisfied by taking a two-course sequence. All Primary Fields may also serve as Secondary Fields. The Department also offers two Fields as Secondary Fields only:

- Anti-trust and Regulation
- Applied Econometrics (must take and pass ECON 8060, 8070, the econometrics qualifying exam and take two of the following courses: 8080, 9090, or Computational Economics).

## **Second and Third Year Papers**

All Ph.D. students are required to write and submit to the Graduate Program Coordinator second and third-year Field papers. These papers will be due at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year spring semesters. Second-Year Field Paper

All second year students must turn in a Field paper from a Field Course at the end of the spring semester to the Graduate Program Advisor. Monetary prizes will be awarded for the best second year papers. It is crucial that students receive faculty input about their paper topic well before the paper is due. Students who fail to turn in a second year paper will be ineligible for any departmental financial support. . A committee formed by the Graduate Program Director will award prizes for the best papers, with advice from the instructors of the Field courses.

## **Third-Year Field Paper**

Students must also turn in a paper at the end of their third year. This paper may either be a revised version of their second year paper, or a paper on a new topic. A committee formed by the Graduate Program Director will award prizes for the best papers, with advice from the instructors of the Field courses.

## **Field Workshops**

Students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and beyond are required to attend and earn passing grades in Applied Economics Field Workshops. Generally, these workshops are designed to introduce students to the process of doing research. Students have the opportunity to develop their own ideas, as well as read, examine critically, and comment on the work of others.

Starting in their second year, students must enroll in Workshops in Applied Economics (courses numbered 9820, Sections vary). Workshops will be offered in and led by faculty in a variety of Fields. These workshops give students the opportunity to present their own research and learn about and evaluate the research of others. The workshops are designed to involve the student in all key aspects of the scientific process: defining a problem and the questions of interest, devising a research strategy to shed light on the problem, communication of the findings, and learning how to scrutinize and critique research, whether one's own or that of others. The Workshops are an ideal vehicle for discovering projects suitable for transformation into a PhD dissertation. Grading is pass-fail. The criteria for passing, as well as procedures and other policies for each workshop will be determined by the faculty leading that workshop.

## The Dissertation

The Ph.D. degree in economics requires 18 thesis hours, writing of a Ph.D. dissertation, and oral defense of said dissertation. Timely completion of the Ph.D. degree requires that students choose a dissertation topic and thesis advisor as soon as possible after completing their required courses. The dissertation may (but need not) grow out of research initiated in a student's 2nd year paper and/or 3rd year workshop. Regardless of the topic chosen, the dissertation must demonstrate to the student's mastery of the subject, an agenda for future research, and an ability to independently pursue that research and other lines of scholarly inquiry.

1. All students should have found a PhD Dissertation Advisor no later than December of their 4<sup>th</sup> year in the program. The student, in consultation with the Advisor, should assemble a committee that includes three additional faculty members, for a total of four members.
2. The chair of this committee and at least two additional members of the committee must be tenure track faculty in the Department of Economics.

## II. Example Four-Year Curriculum with Requirements

Earning the PhD requires 42 hours of graded coursework and at least 18 hours of dissertation. A normal full-time load is 9 hours. Occasionally, the curriculum adjusts for special circumstances (e.g., courses taught by visiting Professors, or innovations in the program. The example curriculum below is designed to give you an idea of how a typical student might proceed.

Year 1: Fall (9 Hours Graded Credit -- All of these courses are required)

MATH CAMP – Starts August 1

ECON 8010 – 3 Hours -- Microeconomic Theory I

ECON 8040 – 3 Hours – Applied Math Econ

ECON 8060 – 3 Hours – Econometrics I

ECON 9810 – 1 Hour ungraded -- Introductory Workshop (continues in Spring)

Qualifying Examination in Economic Theory (for those who did not pass in the Spring)

Year 1: Spring (9 Hours Graded Credit -- All of these courses are required)

ECON 8020 – 3 Hours -- Microeconomic Theory II

ECON 8050 – 3 Hours -- Macroeconomic Theory

ECON 9810 – 1 Hour ungraded -- Introductory Workshop

ECON 8070 – 3 Hours -- Econometrics II (IMPORTANT: Final exam serves as test of proficiency)

Year 2: Fall (9 Hours Graded Credit -- ECON 9010, 8980, and 9810 are required)

Qualifying Exam in Theory – (August -- Required)

ECON 9010 – 3 Hours -- Microeconomic Theory II -- Price Theory (IMPORTANT: Final exam serves as test of proficiency)

ECON 8980 – 3 Hours -- Macro Theory II (IMPORTANT: Final exam serves as test of proficiency)

ECON 8080 – 3 Hours -- Advanced Cross Section Econometrics; OR Other

Advanced Econometrics Course; OR Field Course 1  
ECON 9820 – 3 Hours ungraded – Applied Economics Field Workshop (Required)

Year 2: Spring (6 Hours Graded Credit)

Qualifying Exam in Theory – (January – Required if did not pass in August)  
ECON 9090 – 3 Hours – Advanced Time Series Econometrics; OR Other  
Advanced Econometrics Course; OR Field Course 1; OR Field Course 2  
Field Course – 3 Hours  
ECON 9820 – 3 Hours ungraded – Applied Economics Field Workshop  
(Required)  
Second Year Paper Due

Year 3: Fall (6 Hours Graded Credit; 3 Hours Dissertation)

Qualifying Exam in Theory – (August – Required if did not pass in Year 2)  
ECON 9820 Economics Field Workshop (Required)  
Field Course – 3 Hours  
Field Course – 3 Hours  
ECON 9910 – 3 Hours ungraded -- Dissertation Research

Year 3: Spring (6 Hours Graded Credit; 3 Hours Dissertation)

ECON 9820 – Applied Economics Field Workshop (Required)  
Field Course – 3 Hours  
Field Course – 3 Hours  
ECON 9910 – 3 Hours ungraded- Dissertation Research  
Field Exam (Primary Field)  
Third Year Paper Due

Year 4: Fall and Spring (12 Hours Dissertation)

ECON 9820 – 2 x 3 = 6 Hours ungraded – Applied Economics Field Workshop  
ECON 9910 – 2 x 6 = 12 Hours ungraded -- Dissertation Research  
Oral Dissertation Defense (Spring)

### **III. Fields and Requirements**

Regularly offered fields (with annual or biennial course sequences) include Financial Econ, Industrial Organization, Labor, Public, Growth & Development, and International. Field requirements and selected faculty follow. Students should check with the Faculty members of the appropriate Applied Economics Field Workshops to determine the current requirements for a Primary Field, that is, whether a Field Exam, Field Paper, or both are required.



**Anti-trust and Regulation (Secondary Field only)**

Antitrust (ECON 8250), Regulation (ECON 8260)

**Applied Econometrics (Secondary Field only)**

ECON 8060, 8070, and either 8080, 9090, Computational Econometrics (number varies), or other specialized courses TBA.

**Environmental / Natural Resource Economics**

Two courses from Advanced Natural Resource Economics (ECON/APEC 8090), Economics of Environmental Quality (ECON 8110), Seminar in Resource Economics (ECON 9040)

**Financial Economics**

Financial Economics (ECON 8550) plus either Time Series Econometrics (ECON 9090) or Computational Finance (MTHSC 9820)

**Growth and Development**

Economic Development (ECON 8310), Advanced Economic Growth (ECON 9160)

**Industrial Organization**

Organization of Industry (ECON 8240), and either Antitrust (ECON 8250), Theory of Regulation (ECON 8260), Property Rights (ECON 8270), or Advanced IO (ECON 9240)

**International Economics**

International Trade (ECON 8400), Int'l Finance (ECON 8410)

**Labor Economics**

Labor Economics (ECON 8160), Advanced Labor (ECON 9170)

**Monetary Economics**

Monetary Economics (ECON 9500), Int'l Finance (ECON 8410)

**Public Economics / Public Choice**

Public Finance (ECON 8200) and either Public Choice (ECON 8210) or Empirical Public Economics (ECON 9200)

**IV. Standards of Performance****Annual Review: The Graduate Student Progress Report**

Each year, Ph.D. students must fill out and turn in a progress report. The Department collects information on the year started in the PhD, the years passed the qualifying theory and econometrics exams, graduate assistant duties, Primary and Second field progress, research activities (workshops attended, papers presented, and progress on the dissertation), and honors and awards received. The information collected may change according to Departmental needs. In addition, Faculty are requested to evaluate the quality of the services of Graduate Research or Teaching Assistants assigned to them, on a scale of 1 to 5.

Each Ph.D. student is ranked on a scale of 1-5. The Department, in the strongest terms, discourages making any analogies with academic grading scales. The purpose of the ranking is not to distinguish finely between students on academic or service merit, but to offer the broadest of information on how it sees things going. Currently, the rankings should be interpreted as follows.

1. Student should depart the Ph.D. program immediately.
2. Student is making less than satisfactory progress, and funding (if applicable) is in jeopardy.
3. Student is making satisfactory (good, or very good) progress.
4. Student performance is excellent. (Example: good papers or dissertation chapter written, work presented at conference.)
5. Student performance is outstanding. (Example: sole-authored paper is published in reputable journal, or student receives fully funded scholarship from reputable source.)

The Department has no firm targets but expects 75-85% of students to earn a grade of 3, 15-25% a grade of 4, and 5-10% a grade below 3. The Department expects, too, that students may earn just one or two grades above 3 during their Ph.D. studies; that a student who earns a 4 one year may earn 3s in subsequent years.

### **Criteria for Renewal of Assistantships**

The Department awards both one-time, non-renewable assistantships and renewable assistantships. Renewal of renewable Assistantships and Fellowships naturally requires that funds be available for the Department to spend. Beyond that, it is not possible to list every possible criterion by which the decision to renew an Assistantship will be made. At a minimum, each student:

1. Must be in good academic standing, not on academic probation, and have maintained a GPR of 3.0 or better.
2. Must pass the Qualifying Examination in economic theory in timely fashion – see Section III.
3. Must pass the Qualifying Examination in Econometrics in timely fashion – see Section IV.
4. Must be on track to complete their degree in a timely fashion, taking all courses required of them on time, and complete the Primary and Secondary fields no later than the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
5. Must submit the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-year papers on time.
6. Must have chosen a Dissertation Advisor no later than the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> year.
7. Should have written at least one chapter of their Dissertation by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year.
8. Should generally expect to receive a maximum of 5 years of funding. However, students whose work and accomplishments at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year are unusually strong may, contingent on the availability of funds and the judgment of the Department Head, be

offered one additional year of funding. On the other hand, students whose progress falls short may receive reduced funding in their 5<sup>th</sup> year. Students who demonstrate particularly slow progress may receive minimal funding, or no funding at all beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

9. Must comply with Departmental requests for materials and information on time.
10. Must satisfactorily carry out any and all duties assigned to them. For international students, this includes demonstrating proficiency in the English language.
11. In the rare case that a student fails to satisfactorily carry out his or her duties, he or she may have their funding reduced and be placed on Departmental Probation. Such a student will have one semester in which to demonstrate their willingness and ability to provide a satisfactory level of service. If, unfortunately, this does not occur, that student will have their funding reduced to a minimal level or rescinded entirely.

### **Criteria for Renewal of Fellowships**

Fellowship recipients occupy positions of particularly high honor in the Department, but also positions of particularly high responsibility. Conditional on satisfactory performance, Fellowship recipients can generally count on support for the first 3 years of their study. Starting at the end of the third year, the performance of Fellowship recipients will receive especially careful examination and review on a semester-by-semester basis, and the decision of whether to continue to fund a Fellowship recipient will be made. Funds freed up in the course of the evaluation process may be reallocated, either to new students entering the PhD program, or to those already in the program. In addition to satisfying the criteria for Renewal of Assistantships, Fellowship recipients are expected to demonstrate superior performance in their coursework, scholarship, and, when applicable, performance of duties assigned. It is not possible to list all of the factors that will be considered in the determination of superior performance but will certainly include the quality of written work to date, including journal publications and book publications, research grants obtained, and presentations at professional meetings.

### **The MA Degree En Route to the PhD**

Students in the Ph.D. are eligible to receive an MA degree upon the successful completion of 30 credit hours provided that they have earned passing grades in all Ph.D. core courses: ECON 8010, 8020, 8050, 8060, 8070, 8080 or 9090, and 9010.

### **Procedures**

Each student is responsible for informing themselves about the procedures and policies of the University and Graduate School. This section is not meant to substitute for the information available on the University websites, but hopefully will serve as a reasonable introduction to help students get off to a smoother start. Some useful Graduate School Policies sites are as follows:

Policies and procedures: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policies-procedures/index.html>

Forms: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/forms.html>

Deadlines: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/deadlines.html>

Although the information in this section is correct at the time of this writing, students are responsible for any and all subsequent changes. Students must consult the Graduate School Announcements and the links found on the web page of the Graduate School for up-to-date information.

### **Form GS2 Course of Study**

The GS2 form serves the purposes of both planning and informing the Graduate School about courses taken. As such, the form must be filed at the start of your academic career, and should be updated at key points in time, and in particular, when you plan on applying for a degree, be it your PhD, your MA, or your MA en route (GS2-14). The last time a student files the GS-2 form is particularly crucial because Enrolled Student Services determines a student's eligibility for graduation by checking each course listed against the student's transcript. The GS2 is currently available at [http://www.grad.clemson.edu/forms/pdf/GS2\\_fillable.pdf](http://www.grad.clemson.edu/forms/pdf/GS2_fillable.pdf), and must be filled in by computer.

Each student's course of study will vary but will have certain elements in common. A sample curriculum for a PhD student is shown on the following page, and for an MA student on the page following that. The PhD curriculum shown contains the minimum requirement of 42 credit hours of graded course work (workshops are graded pass-fail, and do not count towards this requirement), plus 18 hours of dissertation, for a total of 60 credit hours. The MA curriculum shown contains the minimum requirement of 24 graded credit hours, plus 6 thesis hours. Starred courses are required. Note, too, that at least 50% of graded coursework for MA students must be at the 8000-level or higher. The GS2 shown below for has 12 hours of the 24 hours of graded coursework at the 8000-level.

#### Courses for Sample GS2 for PhD in Economics

ECON 8010*	Micro I	3	Fall 2014
ECON 8040*	Math Econ	3	Fall 2014
ECON 8060*	Econometrics I	3	Fall 2014
ECON 9810*	Workshop	1	Fall 2014
ECON 8020*	Micro II	3	Spring 2015
ECON 8050*	Macro I	3	Spring 2015

ECON 8980*	Dynamic Macro	1	Fall 2015
ECON 8070*	Econometrics II	3	Spring 2015
ECON 9010*	Micro III	3	Spring 2015
ECON 9810*	Workshop	1	Spring 2015
ECON 8060#	Labor I -- S	3	Fall 2016
ECON 8240#	IO -- P	3	Fall 2015
ECON 8080**	Econometrics III	3	Fall 2015
ECON 9820*	Workshop	0 (Shopping Time)	Fall 2015
ECON 9170#	Labor II -- S	3	Spring 2016
ECON 8250#	Antitrust – P	3	Spring 2016
ECON 8220	Public	3	Spring 2016
ECON 9820*	Workshop	0 (Shopping Time)	Spring 2016
ECON 8260	Regulation	3	Fall 2016
ECON 9910*	Dissertation	6	Fall 2016
ECON 9820*	Workshop	3	Fall 2016
ECON 9910*	Dissertation	6	Spring 2017
ECON 9820*	Workshop	3	Spring 2017
ECON 9910*	Dissertation	5	Fall 2017
ECON 9820*	Workshop	1	Fall 2017
ECON 9910*	Dissertation	1	Spring 2018
ECON 9820*	Workshop	3	Spring 2018

#ECON 8080 may be replaced with ECON 9090, typically offered in the Spring. P Denotes the student's primary field, and S denotes the secondary field. These fields may, of course vary.

#### Courses for Sample GS2 for MA in Economics

ECON 8230*	Micro	3	Fall 2014
ECON 6050*	Econometrics I	3	Fall 2014
ECON 6051*	Econometrics I Lab	1	Fall 2014

ECON 6100	Development	3	Fall 2014
ECON 8550	Financial	3	Fall 2014
ECON 8050*	Macro	3	Spring 2015
ECON 6060 (Recommended)	Econometrics II	3	Spring 2015
ECON 8260	Regulation	3	Spring 2015
ECON 6260	Sports	3	Spring 2015
ECON 8910*	MA Thesis	6	Summer 2015

### **Form GS5: Qualifying Examination in Economic Theory**

The GS5 form signifies that the student has passed the Qualifying examination in economic theory, has satisfied the proficiency requirement in econometrics, and has satisfied the Primary and Secondary Field requirements. For purposes of the monitoring within the Department, student progress in meeting the theory requirement is recorded on the Student Progress Report form by the chair of the Economics department PhD examination committee. The chair of the Econometrics committee records the progress of students in meeting the econometrics requirement on the Student Progress Report. This form is kept on file for each student by the chair of the department.

### **Form GS4: Graduation**

The Graduate Diploma Application, GS4, announces to the Graduate School that a student anticipates completing the dissertation and intends to graduate. This form must be filed very early in the semester – in the first two or three weeks – in which the student wishes to graduate. The chair of the dissertation committee must confirm from the Student Progress Report that the student has passed the Qualifying exam, the econometrics requirement, and the field requirements prior to signing the GS4 form. The practical impact of this rule is that all field requirements must be met in the semester prior to graduating.

### **Form GS7: Thesis Defense**

The defense must be scheduled early enough to allow time for committee-required revisions to the dissertation paper before the GS7 deadline. Typically, a student should allow at least two weeks between the defense and the GS7 deadline. The final PhD examination, must be passed at least **three weeks prior to the commencement** in which the student graduates. The defense will be administered by the PhD dissertation committee, and members of the faculty and the Dean of the Graduate School are invited to attend. The results of the exam are communicated to the Graduate School on form GS7, within five days of the exam.

The final draft of the thesis should be given to committee members well in advance of, and no less than three weeks prior to the defense. This will give committee members time to propose modifications. Revisions can be made after the defense. The Graduate Announcements make clear that: “It should be understood that a vote to pass a student on his/her performance at the thesis/dissertation defense (form GS7) does not imply final approval of the thesis or dissertation.

Approval of the thesis or dissertation is given by faculty signing the approval page. The approval page should not be signed by the committee until the student has made all revisions as instructed by the committee.” The practical impact of this rule is that necessary revisions can be made to improve the dissertation subsequent to the dissertation defense, and further, that the degree will ultimately be awarded only when such revisions are made to the satisfaction of the committee.

Written notification of the defense is due in Enrolled Services at least 10 business days prior to the defense, which typically amounts to 2 calendar weeks. The information must include the student’s name, program of study, title of thesis paper, major advisor, date, time, and location. The student arranges the date, time, and place for the defense in consultation with the major advisor and other members of the advisory committee. Copies of the thesis paper must be delivered to the student's advisory committee at least two weeks before the defense. The student’s major professor and advisory committee conduct the oral examination, but all faculty members are invited to attend. After the defense, revisions in the thesis paper by the student must be approved by the major advisor and committee members. Students may have two attempts to pass the exam. A GS7 must be signed and submitted no later than the end of the penultimate week of the fall or spring semester to indicate passage of the final examination.

## **Academic Probation**

Unfortunately, students occasionally perform below the standards set by the Graduate School. There are two basic requirements. In terms of coursework, students must maintain a GPR of 3.0 or better. In addition, graduate students must carry out research to a satisfactory standard. This section is no more than an introduction; for details students must consult the Policies and Procedures of the Graduate School.

There are two levels of academic probation: R1 for those on probation for the first time, and R2 for those beyond the first time. Students who find themselves on probation because their GPR has fallen below 3.0 are expected to raise their GPR to 3.0 or better within NINE (9) credit hours. Although students who fail to do so may be dismissed from their program at that point, those who make excellent progress may be given another chance to do so within the next nine credit hours. Students who are placed on academic probation must file a GSR1 or GSR2 **Plan for Success**, which must be signed by the Graduate Program Coordinator and approved by the Graduate School. ***It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Coordinator.***

Graduate work in economics, particularly at the PhD level, often challenges students at a level that they have never experienced before. Students accustomed to excelling as undergraduates, or even at the MA level, can be overwhelmed by the amount and difficulty of material, especially during the first year. It cannot be overstated how important it is for each student to examine themselves and their performance on a continuous basis.

In many cases, a rough start can, with hard work, be overcome. A poor grade on a midterm exam might be offset by a good grade on the final exam, and a subpar performance during the first semester can be redeemed by good performance during the second. However, a student who is not performing well should consider seriously their ultimate goals and how best to achieve as many of them as possible. In some cases, this may involve dropping a course by the drop date – please see the academic calendar at [http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/acad\\_cal.htm](http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/acad_cal.htm) – to prevent an F from becoming a part of their academic record (October 24 for the 2014-15 academic year). In other cases, this may

involve switching from the PhD program to the MA program, provided that permission is granted by the Graduate School.

In addition to maintaining a 3.0 GPR or better, graduate students must demonstrate academic progress by passing the Qualifying Examination in Economic Theory, the Qualifying Examination in Econometrics, the exam and or paper required for the Primary Field, and the course sequence for the Secondary Field. Students who fail to make progress on these fronts similarly risk dismissal from the Graduate School.

Finally, graduate students are expected to demonstrate progress in their research. In the Economics PhD program, this means writing satisfactory second-year and third-year papers, and writing the dissertation. Students who fail to turn in satisfactory second- or third-year papers and fail to make progress in writing and defending their dissertations may be dismissed from the Graduate School.