

Joint Statistics and Economics Ph.D.

This joint program allows a student to earn an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the fields of Statistics and Economics. Students obtaining this degree are expected to make meaningful research contributions in both fields. The student's program is overseen by a four-person Supervisory Committee that is comprised of two faculty members from each department. This committee is co-chaired by a faculty member from each department. The committee also consists of two readers with one reader from each department. A faculty member cannot serve as both a reader and a co-chair of the committee.

Entrance to the program

A student may apply to the joint program as a new student or as a current student from one of the individual programs. Admission must be approved by the Graduate Chairs from both departments. As a general guide, students considered for the program should demonstrate backgrounds of sufficient strength to warrant entrance into the Ph.D. programs of both departments.

Students entering the joint program are expected to have intermediate level training in Economics (both macroeconomics and microeconomics) and adequate mathematical background, including three semesters of calculus, a course in linear algebra, and a course in mathematical statistics.

Ph.D. qualifying exam

Students are required to pass the Ph.D. qualifying exams of both departments.

Program of study

The program of study must consist of at least 90 credit hours. The following courses must be included, unless credit has been granted for equivalent courses taken elsewhere:

Statistics: 810, 821, 822, 823, 825, 850, 882, 883, 950, 980, 982, 983, and 984. Students may substitute 981 for 984 if desired.

Economics: 911A, 911B, 912A, 912B, 917, 918, 919, 920, and at least two 900-level Economics courses in a field other than econometrics.

Ph.D. comprehensive exam

The Statistics component of the exam is a dissertation proposal that is presented in an open forum. This is followed by an oral defense conducted by the Supervisory Committee. The Economics component of the exam involves the completion of an original research paper in a field other than econometrics that is in the form of a journal article. An oral defense of that research paper is given by the Supervisory Committee. This oral defense is not limited to the research paper but also examines the student's breadth of understanding of that field. The Supervisory Committee gives a Pass/No Pass grade for all components of the exam.

Dissertation

The dissertation is developed under the supervision of the co-advisors on a topic approved by the student's Supervisory Committee, and it is expected to make an original contribution to both Statistics and Economics.

Final oral exam

After the dissertation is completed, the student takes a final oral exam. For this exam, students present their dissertation research to the university in an open forum. This is followed by an oral defense conducted by the student's Supervisory Committee. This committee gives a Pass/No Pass grade.