The economics PhD program produces graduates trained to conduct rigorous research. Graduates obtain jobs primarily in colleges and universities, but also in government and industry. Our faculty publish in top journals, are key contributors to prestigious associations and editorial boards and regularly present their research at conferences around the world.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Economics

The PhD program in economics is a full-time program intended to prepare students for teaching and research positions at four-year institutions of higher education and for research positions in public agencies or private business organizations. The doctoral program is relatively small in size, with about 45 doctoral students in residence at any time. The low student-faculty ratio affords greater faculty attention and mentoring compared to larger programs. Students are involved in teaching, research and seminar activities, becoming valued members of the department. Most of the doctoral students are supported through teaching and research assistantships for five years. Stipends are highly competitive.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** W. P. Carey School of Business
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

In addition to completing 60 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree (30 credit hours beyond the master's degree) and 24 credit hours of research and dissertation, the doctoral student must accomplish five tasks:
1. meet the qualifying examination requirement
2. present at least one area of emphasis
3. pass the comprehensive examination (both written and oral components)
4. pass the dissertation proposal defense
5. complete a dissertation with an oral defense

Students should see the Department of Economics graduate student handbook for details concerning these tasks.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the W. P. Carey School of Business.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. three letters of recommendation.
5. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The Department of Economics requires applicants to send official scores from the GRE directly to Graduate Admission Services. Applications will not be reviewed until the GRE scores are received.

The admission policy weighs several factors, including letters of reference, overall GPA, GRE scores and performance in selected mathematics and economics courses. There are no absolute standards for any of the factors, but performance on each clearly should suggest academic potential that is far above those of the normal undergraduate student.
Admission guidelines are available on the Graduate Admission Services website. Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms.

Contact Information

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