



Department of Economics Graduate Learning Outcomes

Graduate Education offerings

Economics addresses the problem of using scarce resources to satisfy society's unlimited wants. The application of economic analysis is extraordinarily beneficial to all walks of life as virtually all allocation decisions involve determining how best to allocate limited resources - whether they be cash, clean air, vaccine supplies, "good will," or anything else that people may value. The underlying rationale of the Ph.D. offerings in economics at the University of Oregon is to provide the necessary tools and insights to conduct cutting edge original economic research, and to develop the ability to teach economics at other colleges and universities. Our Ph.D. program offerings introduce the foundations of economics, develop mastery of specific fields, and aid in the conduct and communication of original research.

The discipline of economics is divided into two general areas: microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics explores questions about the way society allocates resources; it applies to public policy in such areas as development, urban, health, industrial organization, law, and labor economics. Macroeconomics considers such questions as the causes of inflation and unemployment; it applies to such areas as monetary policy, fiscal policy, growth and international economics. Our graduate education offerings span both of these areas.

Graduate learning outcomes

1. *Mastery in basic microeconomic, macroeconomic, and econometric concepts.* Students show proficiency in graduate level foundations in economics through required course grades and qualifying exams.
2. *Mastery of the literature, empirical tools and theoretical models used in specific fields of microeconomics and macroeconomics.* Through choosing two specific fields in economics, and completing five additional electives, students show mastery of specific areas of economics in which they will pursue original research topics.
3. *Develop the ability to teach foundational, intermediate and field courses at the undergraduate level.* By serving as graders, teaching assistants with sections, and instructors of record, our graduate students are prepared to develop and teach curriculum as tenure track professors.
4. *Ability to identify and answer original research questions in microeconomics and/or macroeconomics.* Through focused field classes, a third year paper, and writing a dissertation, our students develop the ability to identify and answer original research questions.
5. *Ability to communicate original research, both written and verbal.* By writing a field paper, proposing, writing, and defending a dissertation, our graduate students develop the ability to communicate economic research both through their writing and orally