

Graduate Handbook

Department of Economics
University of Nebraska—Lincoln

Academic Year 2023–2024

1. Introduction

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL) policies and procedures related to graduate-level education are outlined in the [Graduate & Professional Catalog](#) which is maintained by [Office of Graduate Studies](#). The Department of Economics Graduate Handbook offers specific guidance for graduate students in Economics. It focuses on explaining how the academic program requirements as outlined by the Office of Graduate Studies ([Academic Program Requirements](#)) apply to students in the Department of Economics. Questions regarding this handbook should be directed to the Economics Graduate Committee Chair, currently Edward J. Balistreri: Edward.Balistreri@unl.edu.

2. Admission

Applicants for a graduate degree in economics must submit an application, application fee, copies of unofficial transcripts from all post-secondary schools, three letters of reference, a statement of purpose, self-reported Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, as well as proof of [English proficiency](#) for certain foreign students. If a student is **admitted** and enrolls, official GRE scores and transcripts are required. Admitted students are encouraged to work with the Office of Graduate Studies to satisfy any outstanding admission requirements so they avoid registration holds and potential rescindment of admission.

Admission to UNL Graduate Studies is valid for the semester indicated on the Certificate of Admission. A student may delay enrollment by a year if they meet certain Graduate College requirements and if the Economics Department consents to the delay. There is no guarantee of an offer of an assistantship if there is a request for postponement of enrollment. The policy regarding [Changes to Application or Admission](#) are provided in the Graduate and Professional Catalog. Note, however, that first-year courses in economics are sequenced and therefore any acceptable deferral would be for one year, to start the following fall semester.

A graduate student, formerly or currently enrolled, who wishes to pursue a degree objective other than the one originally sought, must initiate a formal application for the new program by filing a new graduate application form, supplementing existing records, and fulfilling any departmental requirements prior to

review by the departmental Graduate Committee and the College. An application fee will be assessed only if a student is changing major areas of study or if a new file must be constructed for someone who has not registered through the Office of Graduate Studies for the past four years.

3. Registration

Students must register for classes prior to the beginning of the semester. Newly admitted graduate students will be advised by the Graduate Chair. They are encouraged to arrive at least a week early to meet with the Graduate Chair and attend orientation events across campus. Currently enrolled graduate students are urged to process early registrations to improve their chances of getting needed classes. Registration for the fall semester and for the summer sessions begins in mid-March; registration for the spring semester begins in mid-October. The Schedule of Classes contains information about procedures and dates pertaining to registration. Additional questions concerning graduate registration procedures are directed to the Office of Graduate Studies, graduate@unl.edu.

Graduate students may register for a maximum of 15 credit hours per academic semester (fall and spring). If on an assistantship, tuition remission only applies to 12 credit hours per academic semester. Full-time status normally requires 9 credit hours (three 3-credit courses) during the fall and spring semesters. Once PhD *Candidacy* is achieved (see section 7.1) and full-time enrollment is not required to fulfill degree requirements, a doctoral degree student may apply for a certification of full-time status, which will drop the enrollment requirement to 1 credit hour enrolled in ECON 999, Doctoral Dissertation, for fall and spring. The certification must be requested before each semester the status is needed. There are other minimum registration requirements that students should be aware of (a.) to avoid some payroll deductions, 4 credits; (b.) to access campus services and facilities, 1 credit; (c.) to maintain financial-aid eligibility, 4 credits; and (d.) to enroll in the student health insurance plan. For complete information on student health insurance please refer to the [Student Health Insurance](#) page.

There is a continuous registration requirement for students who have achieved *Candidacy*. Admission to *Candidacy* is a key step in receiving a graduate degree at UNL (see section 7.1). For economics PhD students this is usually achieved sometime after the completion of coursework. Once candidacy is achieved the student must register for at least one credit hour each **fall** and **spring** semester until they graduate, even after meeting the total dissertation hours on their Program of Studies. Failure to register will result in termination of candidacy and program. The Graduate College allows academic leave, for eligible students providing an exception to continuous registration. Candidacy is not effected by summer registration.

4. Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fee rates are subject to change at the direction of the Board of Regents. For current tuition and fee rates visit the UNL Financial Services student accounts page: studentaccounts.unl.edu/graduate-tuition. There are differential tuition rates for Nebraska residents and non-residents. Candidates who were classified as Nebraska residents for tuition purposes and relocate out of the state while maintaining continuous enrollment remain eligible for resident tuition.

Assistantships offered by the department include a provision for tuition remission of up to 12 credit hours per semester and 6 credit hours during the summer session. That is, students on UNL's payroll through assistantships will generally not be charged tuition. Tuition remission and other payroll benefits are not included, however, with full-time **fellowships** (like the McConnell Research Fellowship). Students on both assistantships and fellowships will receive the benefits and tuition remission of the assistantship.

Some All-But-Dissertation (**ABD**) students may be eligible for **reduced tuition**. Students who have completed all credit hours on their *Program of Studies* and who are registering for a single dissertation (ECON 999) credit hour, in order to maintain continuous registration, are eligible for a waiver of the non-resident portion of tuition. To qualify for this benefit, students must (a.) have grades for all courses on the Program of Studies except for dissertation (ECON 999) hours and (b.) send an email to the Doctoral Specialist (currently Kelsey Sims: kelsey@unl.edu) requesting this benefit. Once approved, this status remains in effect until the student graduates. Non-resident ABD students are encouraged to apply for reduced tuition especially if they are interested in fellowship funding.

5. Advising

Graduate students in the Department of Economics will initially be advised by the Graduate Committee Chair. Once a PhD student's Supervisory Committee is approved the Chair (and Co-chair if applicable) serves as the advisor.

6. International Students

New international students must check in with the International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO). ISSO offers a wide range of support services for international students and scholars. The office helps international students and scholars maintain their immigration status in the United States by providing immigration advising. In addition, ISSO provides programming, support services, and events for all international students and scholars. These events range from academic, social, or cultural topics to help students and scholars adjust to life in Nebraska. On the ISSO home page, globalnebraska.unl.edu/isso, you will find a link to **Graduate Student Check-in** to activate your immigration records.

Prior to enrolling for academic credit, newly admitted international students,

who are subject to the TOEFL requirement, must complete an English Language Test (ELT) conducted by the Programs in English as a Second Language (PIESL) office: www.unl.edu/piesl/home From the PIESL home page follow the link to Placement and Proficiency Testing. The results of the examinations determine if ESL courses will be required in order to complete the English proficiency requirement of your degree. Not all international students are subject to this requirement: **Exemptions** from the ELT requirement are granted for students who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a U.S. university or a university outside the U.S. at which English is the official language of instruction.

7. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree Requirements

7.1 UNL Graduate College PhD Degree Requirements

The Graduate College dictates a set of requirements that apply to all PhD students at UNL. The current Graduate College doctoral degree requirements are found at [Academic Program Requirements](#). The PhD requirements for the Department of Economics should be viewed as a more specific description of the general requirements. In particular, the Department of Economics requirements in this handbook indicate what an acceptable *Program of Studies* in economics would include. The current doctoral-degree milestones as indicated by the Office of Graduate Studies at UNL are as follows:

- 1) Establish a *Supervisory Committee* prior to completion of one half of the doctoral coursework, before accumulating 45 credit hours for a PhD degree.
- 2) Complete a *Program of Studies*, approved by the Supervisory Committee and filed in Graduate Studies prior to completion of one half of the doctoral coursework. The Program of Studies must be filed with Graduate Studies in the same semester as the appointment of the Supervisory Committee. At least **90 credit hours** must be included in the Program of Studies.
- 3) Achieve academic residency.
- 4) Pass a comprehensive examination—in the major and minor fields of study.
- 5) Achieve candidacy and satisfy requirements for registration during candidacy.
- 6) Prepare a dissertation (for PhD or EdD) or doctoral document (for AuD or DMA), pass a final examination (defense), and submit the approved final version to the University.
- 7) Complete all work for the doctoral degree within eight years of filing the Program of Studies in Graduate Studies.

There are specific deadlines imposed by the Office of Graduate Studies on these milestones, as well as deadlines for dissertation and other form submissions,

based on a student's expected graduation date. Please consult the [Doctoral Degree Steps to Completion](#) web page for deadlines and updates to these milestones. The student is responsible for knowing and following any updates as indicated in the Graduate Catalog or [Doctoral Degree Steps to Completion](#) pages.

7.2 Department of Economics PhD Degree Requirements

As indicated in the previous section, the **PhD requirements for the Department of Economics** should be viewed as a more specific description of the general requirements for all PhD degrees at UNL. In particular, the Department of Economics requirements in this section indicate **what is** an acceptable *Program of Studies*. A submitted *Program of Studies* that deviates significantly from the Department's requirements outlined in this handbook is not likely to be approved by the Chair of the Graduate Committee.

7.2.1 Curriculum Overview

A PhD degree in economics includes a relatively structured set of coursework as well as dissertation research requirements. A PhD student in the Department of Economics will have a *Program of Studies* consistent with Table 1 listing the required and discretionary coursework. In Table 1 the semester column indicates either F or S for Fall or Spring semesters, and the corresponding number indicates the year of enrollment. For example, "S 1" is the Spring semester of the first year. In accordance with university and college requirements the *Program of Studies* must include a minimum of 90 credit hours. There is some flexibility between coursework and research hours as approved by the student's Advisory Committee and the Graduate Chair. The target, however, should be at least 46 credit hours of classroom coursework with 44 hours of dissertation research (ECON 999).¹ The minimum overall grade point average on classroom coursework is 3.00 (B).

7.2.2 First-year Coursework

The first-year coursework outlined in Table 1 is highly structured. PhD students need to take ECON 815, Analytical Methods in Economics and Business, as a one-credit course during the first two weeks of their first Fall semester. The student should only take the courses outlined in Table 1. Proficiency in first-year econometrics is required. This is demonstrated by a grade of B or better in both ECON 917 and ECON 918.

¹ As indicated below in subsection 7.2.5 UNL requires at least 12 dissertation (ECON 999) hours on the Program of Studies. A student cannot claim any more than 55 dissertation hours on their Program of Studies. An acceptable Program of Studies in economics will normally fall well within these limits. Students may register for additional dissertation hours, to meet the continuous registration requirement for candidacy, but these do not add to the dissertation hours on the student's Program of Studies.

Table 1. Department of Economics PhD Curriculum

DEPARTMENT REQUIRED COURSEWORK			
			Credit Hours
			Semester
Foundation:			
ECON 815	Analytical Methods	F 1	1
Core:			
ECON 911A	Advanced Macroeconomic Theory I	F 1	3
ECON 911B	Advanced Macroeconomic Theory II	S 1	3
ECON 912A	Advanced Microeconomic Theory I	F 1	3
ECON 912B	Advanced Microeconomic Theory II	S 1	3
ECON 917	Econometrics I	F 1	3
ECON 918	Econometrics II	S 1	3
ECON 919	Econometrics III	F/S 2	3
ECON 920	Adv. Topics in Econometrics	F/S 2	3
Total Core:			24
COURSEWORK APPROVED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE			
Major Field (minimum two 3-credit courses):			
ECON 9xx		After S 1	3
ECON 8xx/9xx or AECN 8xx/9xx		After S 1	3
Total Field:			6
Electives/Minor Field:			
Any approved combination of 8xx or 9xx courses		After S 1	15
Total Coursework:			46
RESEARCH			
Dissertation (44 credit hours):			
ECON 999	Doctoral Dissertation	After S 1	44
Total Hours:			90

7.2.3 Qualifying Exams

Proficiency in economic theory is demonstrated by passing Qualifying Examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, in addition to receiving passing grades in the theory courses (ECON 911A, ECON 911B, ECON 912A, and ECON 912B). Students will take the qualifying examinations following a successful first year of coursework. The exams are administered and graded by the relevant graduate faculty on or around the beginning of June. Grades on the Qualifying Exams are as follows:

- PhD Pass
- MA Pass
- Fail

PhD students must receive a grade of **PhD Pass** on both the Microeconomic and Macroeconomic portions of the exam. Students failing to earn a PhD pass on the first attempt may sit for a second attempt in early August. Students need only retake the section (micro or macro) on which they failed. Students failing to obtain a PhD Pass on the second attempt may be moved to the MA program with written permission from the Graduate Chair notifying the Office of Graduate Studies. Students who receive an MA Pass, or better, on either section may use this exam as their MA comprehensive examination requirement to obtain an MA degree. Students failing at all levels (MA and PhD) on their second attempt will have their program recommended for termination.

7.2.4 Supervisory Committee

At the point that a student establishes proficiency in economic theory and in econometrics the student's supervisory committee needs to be established.² The student must identify a faculty member that is willing and has the expertise to guide their research program. The student must submit to the Chair of the Graduate Committee a formal request that the supervisory committee be formed. Upon recommendation of the economics Graduate Committee, and before the student has 45 hours, the Dean of Graduate Studies appoints, a supervisory committee of at least four members of the *Graduate Faculty*.³ At least one member of the UNL Graduate Faculty external to the economics department must be included

² Proficiency in economic theory is established by passing the Qualifying Exams. Proficiency in econometrics is established by passing the first-year econometrics core courses with a grade of B or better.

³ Only a subset of UNL faculty are members of the Graduate Faculty. Typically, anyone hired by UNL to a tenure-track or tenured position will be appointed as Graduate Faculty. In addition, many people who do not have tenure and are in non-tenure track positions will be members of the Graduate Faculty. A current list of Graduate Faculty in the Department of Economics is given at the end of this handbook, but note that this will certainly change over time.

on the committee. In some cases one qualified *special member* from outside the UNL system may serve as an “extra” committee member. For further details on supervisory committee membership consult the UNL [Graduate Catalog](#).

A form appointing the student’s initial Supervisory Committee must be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies (form: “Appointment of Supervisory Committee”). Faculty membership on the Supervisory Committee can be changed with the approval of the Graduate Chair and the Dean of Graduate Studies (form: “Change of Supervisory Committee”)

7.2.5 Program of Studies

Within three weeks of the Supervisory Committee appointment the student should meet with the committee to draft a Program of Studies. Upon approval by the Chair of the Graduate Committee **the Program of Studies must be filed in the Office of Graduate Studies within the same semester as the approval of the Supervisory Committee.** At least half of the total program of courses and dissertation research must be completed following submission of the program to the Office of Graduate Studies. Any subsequent change in the program or in the dissertation topic is approved by the Supervisory Committee and the Chair of Graduate Committee with program changes reported in writing to the Doctoral Programs Coordinator in the Office of Graduate Studies. The minimum amount of graduate credit is 90 semester hours, including a dissertation. While an acceptable Program of Studies in economics will normally fall well within the limits, there are restrictions on the number of dissertation credits (ECON 999) that apply to a Program of Studies. Graduate policy states the range of dissertation hours (ECON 999) applied to a program must fall between 12 and 55. Students may register for additional dissertation hours, to meet the continuous registration requirement for candidacy, but these do not add to the dissertation hours on the student’s Program of Studies.

Not less than 45 semester hours must be completed at the University of Nebraska **after** the filing of the Program of Studies. If you have accumulated more than 45 hours at the time you file your Program of Studies, you will need to meet with the Chair of the Graduate Committee and provide a written explanation for the delay.

The Supervisory Committee will determine what coursework taken prior to filing of a Program of Studies, including hours earned toward Master’s degree(s) or otherwise transferred from a different institution, will be accepted as part of the 90-hour program. The Committee is not obligated to reduce the doctoral program of studies by applying all coursework taken toward a previously earned Master’s degree(s). Prior coursework should be assessed in relation to its contribution to framing a research foundation for the doctorate. Each course accepted must be determined to be current and relevant in relation to the desired degree. The Office of Graduate Studies limits transfer credits to 45 hours. If transfer credits are

applied to the Program of Studies the Office of Graduate Studies requires official transcripts from the external institution.

7.2.6 Comprehensive Examination (third-year paper defense)

Following successful completion of the Qualifying Examinations, PhD students choose a major field of concentration. Course requirements will ordinarily be at least two PhD-level courses (9xx) in that field. In addition, the student must complete an original research paper, the third-year paper, in that field that will be in the form of a journal article. This paper might become a chapter of the student's thesis, but it need not be. An oral defense of the written research paper before the student's Committee will constitute the Comprehensive Examination. The scope of the oral defense will not be limited to the research paper but will also examine student's breadth of understanding of that field. The comprehensive exam should be completed by the end of the third year and not later than the fourth year.

Should the student's Supervisory Committee determine the student has failed the comprehensive examination, a letter must be submitted by the chair of the supervisory committee to the Dean of Graduate Studies stating the conditions under which the student may attempt another examination.

7.2.7 Admission to Candidacy (dissertation-proposal defense)

After successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination, the student, in consultation with their Advisor and other Supervisory Committee members, will develop a detailed plan for completing their dissertation. This should include specific chapter topics with planned methods and data sources. Once the plan has developed to the point of implementation it is presented to the Supervisory Committee as a Dissertation Proposal. After successfully defending the Dissertation Proposal the student may file an *Application for Admission to Candidacy* with the Office of Graduate Studies. This application must be filed at least seven months prior to the final oral dissertation defense.

The dissertation proposal and subsequent admission to candidacy offers a critical protection for PhD students because it limits the overall scope of their dissertation research. The more detailed and specific the proposal is the better it serves this purpose. An acceptable dissertation proposal should:

- 1) Discuss related literature by providing a largely complete bibliography. Indicate the importance of the dissertation research in this context.
- 2) Provide motivation in terms of contribution to an area of research that is interesting and worthwhile.
- 3) Indicate what specific research questions are to be addressed and exactly what methods will be employed to address them.
- 4) Provide a careful description of any data sources including any potential problems with these data.
- 5) Provide an outline (in paragraph form) of various parts of the thesis,

indicating clearly what is finished, what is in progress, and what remains to be done.

- 6) Instill confidence that a dissertation, which provides an important contribution to the economics literature, can be finished.

7.2.8 Final Examination (dissertation defense)

Each PhD student must complete a doctoral dissertation. The dissertation must involve a substantial research project in economics and provide evidence of the candidate's ability to carry on independent, original research in their field. It should show the technical mastery of their field and advance or modify former knowledge. It should establish new results, draw new conclusions, or interpret old material in a new light. The student's advisor will provide guidance on the structure of the thesis and oversee the execution of research.

Once the dissertation is in a final form and acceptable to the candidate's advisor and at least two other members of the candidate's supervisory committee, the candidate applies for a Final Oral Examination (dissertation defense) with the Office of Graduate Studies (form: [Application of Final Oral Examination](#)). At this point a draft of the dissertation needs to be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies for review and should be redistributed to all members of the candidate's supervisory committee. An oral defense of the dissertation is scheduled no earlier than two weeks following the application submitted to Graduate Studies and the dissertation distribution to the supervisory committee.

The oral defense is open to members of both the University community and the public. During the candidate's presentation of the dissertation and general questioning all persons may be present. At the end of the public presentation there will be a closed session where the Supervisory Committee will ask questions of the candidate. Following this questioning the candidate will be excused and the committee will deliberate on the merits of the dissertation and its presentation as evidence that the candidate has satisfied the degree requirements. The Supervisory Committee reports the results of the final oral examination to Graduate Studies:

- If the committee agrees unanimously that the student has passed: A Report of Completion is signed by all committee members present for the defense.
- If only one member dissents: The dissenting member files a letter of explanation in Graduate Studies, but the student is approved for the degree and a Report of Completion is signed accordingly.
- If more than one member dissents: The student fails to pass the final oral exam. The committee files a report on the failure in Graduate Studies, indicating what the student must do before attempting another examination. A student may attempt a final oral exam only once per term.

Following a successful completion of the oral examination, the student must complete the remaining [Doctoral Milestones](#) as indicated by the Doctoral Programs Coordinator in the Office of Graduate Studies. See the [Doctoral Degree Steps to Completion](#) web page.

8. Master of Arts (MA) Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts degree in Economics is designed to prepare students for a PhD program either at UNL or other institutions. Currently the department does not directly admit students into the Master of Arts in Economics program. Admitted PhD students may, however, earn an MA under the non-thesis option (Option B) outlined by the Graduate College.

A set of core courses including macroeconomics, ECON 911A and ECON 911B, microeconomics ECON 912A and ECON 912B, and econometrics ECON 917, ECON 918, and ECON 919) is expected of all MA students in economics. MA students are required to take a comprehensive examination in the form of the PhD. qualifying examination in economic theory. This exam is administered in June and August each year, and this examination serves as the comprehensive examination for the MA degree. Students must receive an *MA pass* in at least one of the microeconomics or macroeconomics sections of the qualifying exam. Students must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit, at least 15 of which must be earned in courses open exclusively to graduate students (800- or 900-level courses without 400-level cross-listed counterparts). The program must include not fewer than 18 hours in economics.

MA students should design their program of study beginning with the required theory and quantitative courses, which are identical to those for a PhD student. See Table 1. This will include ECON 815 Analytical Methods. The full set of MA Option B requirements are outlined in the Office of Graduate Studies [Academic Program Requirements](#).

9. Financial Assistance

9.1 Department Graduate Assistantship

Graduate Assistantships are awarded to students admitted to the economics department with a specific degree objective and enrolled for credit during the tenure of the assistantship. Students who hold graduate assistantships may not work more than half time, or 19.6 hours per week, all jobs considered, including the assistantship(s).

Duties of graduate assistants include instructing undergraduate courses and assisting faculty members in research, grading, and record keeping. Assistants generally devote 15 to 19.6 hours per week to the performance of their assignments. International graduate students who wish to be employed as teaching assistants at UNL must pass the International Teaching Assistant Institute after passing the

SPEAK test.

Tuition remission of up to 12 hours per semester and 6 hours in the summer sessions is provided as a benefit of eligible assistantship employment for approved graduate level courses. Students holding benefits-eligible assistantships are automatically enrolled in basic individual student health insurance at a reduced premium cost to the student. Retention of the benefits is requisite on assistantships being in place for 120 days each semester. If a graduate assistant resigns prior to that time, all charges for tuition and health insurance premiums will be retroactively due from the beginning of the current semester and charged to the student.

Assistantships are awarded on an annual basis. Normally, PhD students are eligible for assistantship funding during their first four years of matriculation. A student's assistantship is renewable if they are in *good standing*. A student in good standing will be following an approved program of study, and their assistantship performance in either teaching or research duties must be judged to be satisfactory by his or her supervisor.

9.2 University Fellowships

New students must be nominated by their departments for all awards. Endowed fellowships are available only to students who have completed at least 9 hours of graduate credit in residence at UNL. Submission of a completed Application for Graduate Fellowships form is required for consideration for endowed fellowships. Students are encouraged to consult the Graduate Bulletin and Graduate Studies web site graduate.unl.edu/funding/fellowships for information on University Graduate Fellowships

9.3 Department Fellowships

Bingham Fellowship: The Robert C. and Patricia N. Bingham Economics Fellowship Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation is dedicated to providing financial assistance to those planning a teaching career in economics at the post-secondary level. Each fellowship of \$3,000 will supplement a graduate assistantship for one academic year. Recipients will be allowed to reapply each year. The following criteria will be used by the Economics Graduate Committee in making an award:

- 1) Recipient must be admitted to the Economics Graduate Program.
- 2) Recipient who has been enrolled in the Program must have made satisfactory progress.
- 3) Recipient shall have expressed an intention to pursue a college or university teaching career and have demonstrated an interest through outstanding teaching performance or potential.

First-time applicants to the Graduate Program may apply for a Fellowship by submitting a written statement of interest in college-level teaching. This statement

should be distinct from the statement of purpose requested in the application for admission and should focus on the applicant's intention to pursue a teaching career. The statement should not exceed two pages. Continuing graduate students may apply for a Fellowship by submitting a carefully written statement of teaching interest and experience. The statement should not exceed two pages. Up to three additional pages of supporting materials (letter of support, teaching evaluations, etc.) may be submitted as well.

McConnell Research Fellowship: The Campbell R. McConnell Fund for Excellence in Economics at the University of Nebraska Foundation provides dissertation fellowships to one or more PhD candidates in the dissertation stage. Each fellowship award is \$27,500. To apply, the candidate submits a proposal describing their dissertation research in ten pages or less and include a letter of support from their PhD advisor. The Economics Graduate Committee selects the award recipient based on its evaluation of the proposal's

- 1) potential contribution to the discipline;
- 2) clarity in definition of research methods and objectives; and
- 3) overall feasibility.

10. Department Awards

McConnell Outstanding Graduate Student Research Prize: The Economics Graduate Committee will select and present the *McConnell Outstanding Graduate Student Research* prize to recognize outstanding research productivity on the behalf of a currently enrolled graduate student.

The recipient will receive an award of \$1,000 from the McConnell Fund for Excellence in Economics, established by the McGraw-Hill Foundation. The recipient must be a currently enrolled student in good standing in the Economics Doctoral Program, must have passed the Qualifying Examinations, and must present an original research paper in the department seminar series. The Graduate Committee will determine the recipient based on the academic quality of the student's research embodied in the seminar paper.

Economics Graduate Assistant Distinguished Teaching Award: This award is intended to recognize graduate students who provide accomplished classroom teaching and who work to enhance the undergraduate experience at UNL. Award recipients are chosen by the department's Graduate Committee and the award shall consist of a certificate of recognition and a modest honorarium whenever possible. The award(s) will be presented at the end of the spring semester each year.

11. Annual Review of Graduate Students

Graduate students in the Economics Department are expected to maintain a high level of achievement in their graduate studies. Accordingly, each spring grad-

uate students will be expected to submit materials detailing his or her progress. For those graduate students that have taught a class in the previous year, those materials must include an updated teaching portfolio. (See the Office of Graduate Studies page on [Constructing a Teaching Portfolio](#)). These materials will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee to determine if the student remains in *good standing*, as defined by:

- 1) Obtaining a minimum grade of B in all coursework. A grade of B- is not acceptable.
- 2) Timely completion of qualifying examinations, comprehensive examinations, or final degree examination, subject to provisions of the Graduate Handbook.

A typical PhD with good progress should use the following schedule as a reference:

- **At the end of the first year** the student should complete all first-year coursework with a grade of B or better and pass the qualifying examinations in economic theory.
- **At the end of the second year** the student should complete the econometrics core and start to organize their Supervisory Committee.
- **At the beginning of the third year** the student should have a Supervisory Committee on record with the the Office of Graduate Studies. A *Program of Studies* should be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies in the same semester as the approval of the Supervisory Committee. The *Program of Studies* should record the bulk of classroom coursework with a grade of B or better.
- **At the end of the third year** the student should have submitted a research paper to their Supervisory Committee and defended this paper in satisfaction of the comprehensive examination requirement.
- **At the end of the fourth year** the student should have defended their dissertation proposal and should be on record as a PhD candidate with the Office of Graduate Studies.
- **In subsequent years** the student needs to be making progress to degree completion including maintaining continuous enrollment and earning "IP" (in-progress) grades on dissertation hours. It is expected that the PhD degree will be completed in less than five years.

It is understood that, circumstances may arise that prevent students from meeting these guidelines for good progress. In the event that a student falls more than one year behind the standards for "good progress" the Graduate committee may recommend probation, termination of financial assistance and/or termination of the student's degree program.

12. Academic Regulations

12.1 Graduate Credit

Economics students in graduate programs are expected to take courses that earn *Graduate Credit*. This indicates taking courses at UNL that are numbered from 800 to 999. In certain cases, graduate academic work performed at other institutions can be counted towards the degree earned at UNL. Visit the UNL Graduate and Professional Catalog page on [Graduate Credit](#) to see the specific restrictions on transfer credits and graduate credit policies.

12.2 Grading system

See the UNL Graduate and Professional Catalog page on the grading system and scholastic grade requirements: [Grades](#)

12.3 Probation and Termination of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies maintains the current set of Guidelines for Probation and Termination. These guidelines are included in the [Academic Program Requirements](#). It is critical that students read and understand these guidelines. Students are expected to maintain a high level of achievement in their graduate studies and adhere to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and all relevant policies. Accordingly, UNL reserves the right to act with respect to any graduate student who fails to maintain satisfactory progress or who violates any provision of the Student Code of Conduct or relevant policy. Such action may include, without limitation, placing the student on academic probation, suspending or terminating the student from a degree or certificate program, or precluding the student from pursuing any further graduate studies at UNL. Please visit <https://catalog.unl.edu/graduate-professional/policies/academic-program-requirements/#text> and click on the link to **Guidelines for Probation and Termination**

13. Economics Graduate Faculty (spring 2023)

Allgood, Sam; Faculty Director of the Teaching and Learning Center and Edwin J. Faulkner Professor of Economics

Areas: Economics of Education, Labor Economics, and Cost of Taxation.

Anderson, John E.; Baird Family Professor of Economics

Areas: Public Finance, Tax Policy, Urban Economics, and Transition Economics.

Balistreri, Edward J.; Duane Acklie Chair and Professor of Economics

Areas: International Economics, and Public Economics.

Fuess, Scott M.; University of Nebraska Faculty Athletics Representative, Steinhart Foundation Distinguished Professor of Business, Research Fellow Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) Bonn, Germany and Professor of Economics

Areas: Labor Economics, Economics of Collegiate Sports, and Economy of Japan.

Gong, Yifan; Assistant Professor of Economics

Areas: Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Econometrics, and Urban and Housing Economics.

Jarrett, Uchechukwu; Associate Professor of Practice in Economics

Areas: International Economics, Development Economics, and Energy and Resource Curse.

Mann, Christopher; Associate Professor of Practice in Economics

Areas: Econometrics, Macroeconomics, and Health Care Economics.

Tan, Teck Yong; Assistant Professor of Economics

Areas: Applied Microeconomic Theory, Contracts and Organizations, and Information Economics.

Tannenbaum, Daniel; Assistant Professor of Economics

Areas: Labor Economics and Public Economics.

Thompson, Eric; Department Chair, K.H. Nelson College Professor of Economics and Director of Bureau of Business Research

Areas: Bureau of Business Research and Regional Economics.

Timpe, Brenden; Assistant Professor of Economics

Areas: Labor Economics, Public Economics, and Economic Demography.

Yao, Yuxi; Assistant Professor of Economics

Areas: Macroeconomics, Housing Economics, and Urban Economics.

Zincenko, Federico; Assistant Professor of Economics

Areas: Econometrics and Industrial Organization.