

Economics (Applied Economics Department), PhD

Department: Applied Economics Department
College: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The PhD in economics gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in research. The program emphasizes applied economic theory and quantitative analysis, and students can focus their studies in environmental and natural resource economics, agricultural economics, or regional economic development.

PhD graduates have had opportunities to work on research projects funded by organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Education, among others. Many graduates have published refereed journal articles that stem from their graduate work in scholarly journals.

Career Options

While graduates primarily pursue careers in research and academia, this degree also prepares students for positions in:

- Industry
- Private consulting firms
- Regional and national policy-making agencies
- Private, not-for-profit organizations
- Community/regional economic planning and development agencies

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Prerequisite course work for the PhD in Economics:

M.S. in Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics, Economics, Environmental/Natural Resource Economics, or a closely related degree.

Or at a minimum evidence of the following coursework:

- Microeconomic Principles
- Intermediate Microeconomics
- Calculus
- Statistics
- Basic Econometrics

Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on the GRE
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following application deadline for students wishing to receive funding:

- Fall semester –January 31

The deadline for admission without funding is:

- Fall semester – June 30

PhD candidates are accepted in odd years only.

Financial Assistance

The department offers a limited amount of competitive [research assistantships](#) and [tuition awards](#). As the availability of these assistantships varies from year to year, students should check with the department for more information.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), and [travel support](#). Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized [health insurance](#) through qualifying assistantships.

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Doctor of Philosophy**.

Students must take a qualifying examination at the end of their first year. It is composed of two, four-hour exams covering 1) microeconomics and 2) econometrics and quantitative methods.

Both exams must be passed before moving on to the second year of study.

Contact

Advisor(s)

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Association of Environmental Resource Economists: AERE is a professional association for economists working in the environmental and natural resources fields. It serves as a means for exchanging ideas, stimulating research, and promoting graduate training in environmental and resource economics.

Labs, Centers, Research

Center for Integrated BioSystems: The CIB leads a progressive, interdisciplinary effort in research, core services, and education serving agriculture and life sciences. The CIB is where the first hybrid animal, a mule, was cloned, and was named one of “30 Awesome College Labs” by Popular Science magazine. The CIB has a research program with several active projects in diverse areas of life science that encompass plant, animal, and microbe functional genomics.

Utah Agricultural Experiment Station: The UAES is part of a network of researchers and facilities at the nation’s land-grant universities and is committed to improving agriculture and managing natural resources for the people of Utah. At research facilities on the USU campus and throughout the state, UAES supports hundreds of research projects that promote agriculture and human nutrition and enhance the quality of rural life.