GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK
2018-2019

Chair:            Robert Shimer
Director of Graduate Studies:  Azeem Shaikh
Graduate Student Affairs Administrator:  F. Robert Herbst
Graduate Student Affairs Administrator:  Ottilie Young

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GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Economics offers a program of study leading to the Ph.D. degree. The program includes courses and comprehensive examinations in the three "Core" subjects of Price Theory; the Theory of Income; and Quantitative Methods. In addition to the Core, Ph.D. requirements include demonstration of competence in two Specialized Fields of concentration, courses in three elective Fields for the General Distribution requirement, a Required Research Paper, the approval of a Thesis Proposal, and the completion of the Doctoral Thesis.

The usual load is three courses per quarter for two years; this permits completion of nine courses during the regular academic year. The comprehensive examination for the Core subjects is given in the Summer Quarter.

Ph.D. students may request permission from the Director of Graduate Studies to choose electives outside the Department of Economics for Field or General Distribution requirements. Satisfactory grades on course work done at the graduate level at another institution may also be used to satisfy part of the course requirements for General Distribution by petition to the Director of Graduate Studies.

With good preparation, students commonly take five to six years to complete the Ph.D. Students who begin with the intention of obtaining the Ph.D. but who change their plans or fail to satisfy the Ph.D. requirements will in most cases find themselves eligible for the M.A. degree. Requirements for the M.A. are listed below.

A program of a typical Ph.D. student consists of the following sequence:

First Year: Courses in price theory, the theory of income, and quantitative methods to prepare for the "Core" examination.

First Summer: Core examination.

Second Year: Courses in Specialized Fields and participation in Workshops. Certification in two Specialized Fields (see below). Identification of a Research Paper topic.


Fifth Year: Completion of the Doctoral Thesis and presentation of a Public Lecture at which the Department formally approves the thesis.

Students are advised to become completely familiar with the degree requirements contained herein. Requests for clarification of rules should be directed to the Graduate Student Affairs Administrator. The rules are subject to changes by the faculty from time to time, and
students in the program are urged to consult the most recent booklet. Any variation in the requirements must be requested in writing and approved by Director of Graduate Studies.

Grading - Students are required to take quality letter grades for the courses used to meet the M.A., and the General Distribution requirements. The level of quality grades necessary to meet each of these requirements is described in their respective sections below. Quality letter grades are useful to both the student and members of the faculty who advise the student. The grades are valuable as predictive devices with respect to the successful completion of the requirements for a degree and are used in making financial aid decisions. Quality grades in the core courses may be considered together with performance on the Core Examination to demonstrate competence equivalent to a Ph.D. Pass on the Ph.D. Core Examination. Quality grades in specialized field classes are necessary if the field is certified by GPA and may also be considered by the faculty in determining competence in the field if it is certified by other means (see below).

The grade of “P” (meaning “Pass”) indicates that the student has submitted sufficient evidence to receive a passing grade and may only be used for the fulfillment of the Research Paper Requirement.

An "R" grade -- which, it should be noted, cannot be requested after the last class meeting of a course and cannot be changed to a quality grade at a later time (or vice versa) – should be taken only after careful consideration of the possible consequences.

**SPECIALIZED FIELDS OF ECONOMICS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE**

1. Behavioral Economics  
2. Environmental/Public Finance  
3. Econometrics and Statistics  
4. Financial Economics (requirements count as two fields)  
5. Industrial Organization  
6. Labor Economics  
7. Macroeconomics  
8. Mathematical Economics  
9. Trade & Growth  
10. Other (see Specialized Field Requirements)
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

Core Requirements - The core courses consist of Economics 30100-30200-30300 (Price Theory), 31000-31100-31200 (Quantitative Methods), and 33000-33100-33200 (Theory of Income). The Core Examination, given in the Summer Quarter of each year, tests mastery of material in these nine courses. To be admitted to Ph.D. Candidacy, a student must demonstrate competence in this material by receiving a grade of Ph.D. Pass on the Core Examination.

Students must apply to the Department to take the Core Examination by the last Friday of Spring Quarter. No one will be admitted to the Examination without prior application.

No more than two attempts are allowed to earn a Ph.D. Pass on the Core Examination: one in the first year and the other, if necessary, in the second year.

Core Examination - The Core Examination consists of three parts (Price Theory, the Theory of Income, and Quantitative Methods) written on separate days in the summer quarter. Students writing the examination for the first time must write all three parts. Students will receive a single grade of Ph.D. Pass, M.A. Pass, or Fail based on their performance on the entire Core examination and their grades in the Core courses. Students receiving a grade of Fail or M.A. Pass on their first writing of the Core Examination must rewrite each part unless they are informed, in writing, that they are required to rewrite only a specific part of the examination.

The possible outcomes of taking the Core Examination are:

- Ph.D. Pass
- M.A. Pass and retake Price Theory
- M.A. Pass and retake Theory of Income
- M.A. Pass and retake Quantitative Methods
- M.A. Pass
- Fail

The Core Examination must be taken at the regularly scheduled time.

Students who have not PhD-passed the Core Examinations cannot be doing other teaching or research work in the university during the academic year.

A student who is required to re-take the entire Core Examination is allowed extra time to complete the requirements below.

Specialized Field Requirements - Demonstration of competence in two Fields to be chosen from the list on page 3. If field “Other” is chosen, the program of work must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies by the end of the autumn quarter of that academic year.
The method(s) for certifying competence in each Specialized Field will be chosen by the faculty teaching in that Field. Specifically, the methods are:

- with a GPA (3.0 average) in the Field courses;
- with a Preliminary Examination
- with a Preliminary Paper.

Each Field can choose one or more options, as the faculty members prefer.

**GPA Certification** - Successful completion within a single academic year of the required sequence of courses, taken for quality letter grades with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

No course can be counted for GPA certification in more than one field.

**Preliminary Examination** - Successful performance on a written Preliminary Field examination. As preparation for the examination, students are expected to take the courses in that Field.

**Preliminary Paper** - Successful completion and evaluation of a paper related to the Specialized Field by the end of the summer following completion of the field courses.

Specialized Fields must be declared on a written Application for Specialized Field Certification by the last Friday of the Spring Quarter of a student’s first Post-Core year.

No more than two attempts are allowed to earn certification in a Specialized Field: one in the second year and the other, if necessary, in the third year. Different fields may be chosen for second attempts at Specialized Field certification.

A student who cannot Ph.D. Pass the specialized field requirements after two years of field courses may not continue for the Ph.D. degree.

**Specialized Field Certifications** - Specialized Field Certification attempts are graded Ph.D. Pass, M.A. Pass, or Fail. The grade of M.A. Pass is satisfactory for meeting requirements for the M.A. degree, but not for meeting the Ph.D. field certification requirement.

If a student applies to take a preliminary examination or submit a preliminary field paper and does not write the examination or the paper by the posted due date, a grade of "Fail" is automatically recorded. However, students may withdraw from a field certification with the prior approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

The scheduling of a Preliminary (Field) Examination or a Preliminary Field Paper due date may be changed by petition of the chair of the Specialized Field committee. The petition should then be forwarded in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies at least six weeks in advance of the examination or due date. The change must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. If the Director considers the request to be valid, a notice will be made to appropriate students of the proposed change in date outside the department.
office for ten days. If no objections to the change are received by the Director within these ten days, the change then will be made. No changes in schedule will be made later than one month prior to the examination.

**Examinations In Abesentia** - Students writing an examination in absentia must pay a $200 service charge for each part of the examination at the time they submit their examination application. Proctors for in absentia examinations will be approved by the Department. For each examination, students should submit names of proposed Proctors who are University of Chicago graduates or affiliates known to the Department of Economics faculty. The Department will select the Proctor either from among these recommendations or from its own list of proctors. If acceptable proctors are not available, then the examination may not be taken in absentia.

**Required Research Seminar/ Paper** - The Required Research Seminar/Paper is designed to introduce the Ph.D. student to the demands and excitement of research, promote early contact with the faculty, and introduce the process of selecting a research topic and writing about it. (The thesis itself comes later and may be on a different topic.) Every student is required to write a research paper under faculty supervision by taking the Required Research Seminar.

The Research Seminar (ECON 49700-49900) should be taken in the student’s third year of study. Students in a Research Seminar will meet weekly, throughout the year. The requirement for successful completion of the Research Seminar is a Research Paper. The final draft of the Research Paper is due no later than the end of the Spring quarter of the third year.* The faculty supervisors(s) must approve by giving a grade of “P” (with a grade of “A” allowed for outstanding papers). Unsatisfactory papers or those with requested revisions will be due by the start of the autumn quarter of the fourth year. Students may not register for their fourth year of study unless this requirement is completed.*

This is a binding requirement for admission to candidacy, without exception, just as passing the Core or the Specialized Field Requirements in two attempts are binding requirements. Related, from the second year on into subsequent years the Ph.D. student is required to attend at least one Workshop or faculty supervised Working Group on a regular basis—though possibly a different one in different quarters or years, if preferred. This includes the standard Workshops as well as certain special gatherings (Working Groups) listed as “600-level” Workshops. The 600-level Workshops require consent of the instructor, and he or she is not obliged to grant permission to everyone.

Students are strongly encouraged to present their Research Paper, or another research idea, in one of these workshops or groups, for the purpose of practice, experience, and general feedback. Standing before a small number of faculty and defending ideas while welcoming constructive criticism is something necessary to learn to do early on.

* Unless the student is out-of-sequence. Completion Time below.
**General Distribution Requirement** - Demonstration of competence in three courses in three different fields and outside of the student's two Specialized Field Requirements, to be selected from courses either within any of the other fields or courses listed under "Other Courses" on page 14). Competence is demonstrated with a grade of C- or better.

Students may petition the Director of Graduate Studies to count graduate Ph.D. level courses outside the Department of Economics (in the Booth School of Business, Mathematics, History, Demography, or Statistics, etc.) at the University of Chicago or elsewhere as fulfilling one of these General Distribution Requirements.

**Thesis Proposal and Thesis Seminar** - Students must write a thesis proposal and give a thesis seminar following the procedures described below.

When students have satisfied the preceding program requirements, they may form a tentative thesis committee. The thesis committee consists of at least three faculty members. Faculty from outside the department may serve, but at least one member must be in the Department of Economics.

The student, before appearance at the thesis seminar, shall prepare a thesis proposal explaining the thesis topic, the existing state of knowledge on the topic and the proposed plan to address the research problem.

When the tentative thesis committee has approved the proposal the candidate shall submit the completed and signed *Thesis Proposal Seminar Form* along with one pdf file of the Thesis Proposal paper to the Graduate Student Affairs Administrator, at least two weeks prior to the date of the seminar. The Department shall then circulate the proposal to all faculty members of the Department.

The student's tentative thesis committee is expected to attend the thesis proposal seminar. The purposes of the seminar are:

- for the student to present his or her thesis proposal to faculty
- to help the student define and solve the research problem
- to assist the Department in evaluating the student

At the start of the seminar, the student must provide the chair of the thesis committee with a Thesis Proposal Approval Form. Approval of the thesis proposal shall be determined by a vote of attending faculty at the conclusion of the seminar. This form must be completed and signed by the chair of the thesis committee in a manner reflecting the outcome of the faculty vote. The student must return this form to the Student Affairs Administrator immediately following the faculty vote.
Completion Time, Academic Probation - Students must be admitted to Ph.D. Candidacy by the end of their fourth year in residence.

Students who have not been admitted to candidacy by the end of their spring quarter of their fourth year will be placed on academic probation. Such students will remain on academic probation until the start of the first quarter following their admission to candidacy. Students on academic probation will not be eligible for the Advanced Residence tuition financial aid.

(Note: If a student with Division of Social Sciences Division (DSS) funding for their fifth year is not a Ph.D. candidate by the end of their fourth year of residence, they will not receive their SSD stipend in their fifth year until the quarter after their admission to candidacy. If they are admitted to candidacy during their fifth year, they will be entitled to three full quarters of SSD stipend, beginning with the quarter following admission to candidacy. If they are not admitted to candidacy by the end of their fifth year, they will forfeit one quarter of SSD funding for every quarter they are not yet admitted to candidacy in their sixth year. (Thus under no conditions will SSD funding be available in the seventh year.)

For students who have had to take the entire core twice, Specialized Field certifications are expected by the end of their third academic year, with the second attempts, if necessary, by the end of the fourth. Also, these students should register for the Required Research Seminar in their fourth academic year and the paper is due by the end of Spring Quarter of that year.

Students who have to retake only one of the parts of the Core Exam must follow the same timetable as if they had passed the entire Core.
REQUIREMENTS AFTER ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

The Eight-Month Requirement - Admission to Ph.D. candidacy must have been granted at least eight months before the awarding of the Ph.D. degree.

The Thesis

- The final (permanent) thesis committee is ordinarily the same as the tentative thesis committee, but the candidate may request a change in the composition of the committee. Any such request must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.
- A Ph.D. thesis submitted for final approval by the Department of Economics faculty must be self-contained, but may be supplemented by supporting material. In scope and quality, the thesis shall be comparable to a published journal article.
- After the candidate's thesis has been approved by the thesis committee (indicated by their signatures on the Approval Form for Public Lecture), the candidate shall prepare a PDF file of the thesis and submit it to the Graduate Student Affairs Administrator. The thesis must be circulated for a three-week Reading Period while the University is in session.
- Before the three-week Reading Period can begin, a date and a time for the Public Lecture must be set so it can be announced when the thesis is circulated. The Public Lecture may be held anytime during the three-week Reading Period except the first two days.
- The thesis committee chair must be present at the Public Lecture. At the end of the Public Lecture, the chair must indicate that the candidate has obtained a passing grade by signing the Report of Final Examination for the Degree of Ph.D. on behalf of the final thesis committee as required by the University.
- In special circumstances the Public Lecture can be waived. This requires a formal petition from the thesis committee chair, stipulating the reason for this course of action. The petition must be approved by the Department faculty.
- Final acceptance and approval of the thesis shall follow the Public Lecture and the three-week Reading Period, and will depend upon (a) acceptance of the dissertation by the thesis committee and (b) approval of the thesis by the Department faculty. At the end of the Reading Period, the chair of the thesis committee must submit a memo to the Director of Graduate Studies stipulating whether or not there are any faculty objections to approval of the thesis. If objections are raised, the matter will be brought to a faculty vote. The memo must be received before the Department can certify that a candidate has satisfied all departmental requirements for the Ph.D. degree.
- All departmental requirements for the Ph.D. degree must be satisfied no later than the final submission deadline, set by the Dissertation Office, before the Convocation at which the degree is granted.
- The candidate must fulfill the University-wide convocation and dissertation requirements. These include: application for the degree by the first day of the quarter in which it is to be granted; submission of a copy of the dissertation for review and approval by the Dissertation Office by their Draft Deadline; submission of final corrected copies of the dissertation by the Dissertation Office's final submission deadline; final approval of the thesis by the Department of Economics Chair indicated on the Dissertation Office's Departmental Approval form; completion of all other forms required by the Dissertation Office; and payment of University publication fees. For additional information about University requirements see http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/phd/.
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

The Department does not admit students who intend to do only a Master’s degree. However, students who choose to leave the program or fail to meet program requirements will in most cases find themselves eligible for the M.A. degree.

There are two alternative sets of requirements that can be used for the M.A. degree:

1) Receiving a passing quality letter grade in the nine Core courses: Economics 30100, 30200, 30300, Economics 31000, 31100, 31200, and Economics 33000, 33100, 33200.
   a) At least five of the grades in these courses must be "B-" or better.
   b) In addition, a grade of M.A. Pass on the Core Examination is required.

2) Receiving a passing quality letter grade in nine courses of registration in graduate level courses in economics.
   a) At least five of the grades in these courses must be "B-" or better.
   b) The following courses are required: Economics 30100, 31000, and 33000.
   c) Two of the courses must be in one Specialized Field
   d) In addition, EITHER
      i) One field certification must be passed at the M.A. level. Normally this certification is in the field in which the two courses are taken.
      ii) An M.A. Pass on the Core Examination may be substituted.

SUMMER GRANT DISBURSEMENT POLICY

Students with Social Sciences Division (SSD) funding of three or four summer research grants will receive the first grant their first summer after matriculating. Their second summer research grant will be paid in their second summer if they Ph.D. Passed the Core in their first summer.
THE CORE

**Price Theory**
- 30100 Price Theory I - Murphy (F)
- 30200 Price Theory II -- Reny (W)
- 30300 Price Theory III -- Stole (Sp)

**Theory of Income**
- 33000 Theory of Income I -- Alvarez (F)
- 33100 Theory of Income II -- Stokey (W)
- 33200 Theory of Income III -- Shimer (Sp)

**Quantitative Methods**
- 30400 Introduction to Mathematical Methods in Economics (Math Camp) -- Staff
- 31000 Empirical Analysis I -- Shaikh (F)
- 31100 Empirical Analysis II -- Uhlig/Hansen (W)
- 31200 Empirical Analysis III -- Heckman/Mogstad (Sp)

THE SPECIALIZED FIELDS

**Behavioral Economics** (GPA certification)
- 41001* Behavioral Economics—Pope (W)
- 41100* Experimental Economics — Bursztyn (W)
- 41220* Behavioral Economics: Theory and Applications – Bursztyn/Thakal (Sp)

**Econometrics and Statistics** (GPA certification)
- 31720* Applied Microeconometrics - Torgovitsky (F)
- 31740* Optimization-Conscious Econometrics - Pouliot (W)
- 31703* Topics In Econometrics – Bonhomme (Sp)

**Environmental/Public Finance** (Paper certification)
- 36000* Public Finance – Golosov (F)
- 36730* Environmental and Energy Economics I – Kellogg (W)
- 36750* Environmental and Energy Economics III – Ito (Sp)
- 36820* Empirical Topics in Social Insurance – Deshpande (Sp)

**Financial Economics** (requirements count as two fields GPA certification)

*Four Required Courses:*
- 35050* Asset Pricing I -- Constantinides/Heaton (F)
- 35070* Corporate Finance I – Diamond/He (F)
- 35060* Asset Pricing II – Hansen/Nagel (W)
- 35080* Corporate Finance II – Sufi (W)

*Two Elective Courses from the following:*
- BUSN 35905 Portfolio Choice and Asset Pricing: Theory and Applications – Fama (F)
- 41150 Behavioral Finance – Hartzmark (S)
- BUSN 35908 Research Projects: Finance – Fama (S)
- 39701 Advanced Theory of Corporate Finance and Capital Markets – He (S)
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40101*</td>
<td>Advanced Industrial Organization I -- Syverson (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>40201*</td>
<td>Advanced Industrial Organization II -- Hortacsu (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>40301*</td>
<td>Advanced Industrial Organization III -- Carlton (Sp)</td>
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**Labor Economics (GPA certification)**

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<tr>
<td>34400*</td>
<td>Job Mobility/Wage Determinants -- Neal (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>35003*</td>
<td>Human Capital, Markets, and the Family -- Heckman (W)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>34601*</td>
<td>Household Decisions and Labor Markets -- Voena (Sp)</td>
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**Macroeconomics (Paper certification)**

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<tr>
<td>38102*</td>
<td>Applied Macroeconomics: Heterogeneity and Macro -- Kekre/Winberry (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>35340*</td>
<td>Macroeconomics and Financial Frictions -- Uhlig (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>33703*</td>
<td>Financial Markets in the Macroeconomy -- Guerrieri (Sp)</td>
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**Mathematical Economics (GPA certification)**

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<tr>
<td>30501*</td>
<td>Topics in Theoretical Economics -- Reny (W)</td>
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<td>30720*</td>
<td>Dynamic Games -- Lipnowski (W)</td>
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<td>30510*</td>
<td>Topics in Theoretical Economics II -- Brooks (Sp)</td>
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**Trade & Growth (GPA certification)**

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<tr>
<td>35101*</td>
<td>International Macroeconomics &amp; Trade -- Dingel (F)</td>
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<td>35310*</td>
<td>Topics in International Trade and Growth -- Tintelnot (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>37601*</td>
<td>Topics in International Trade and Growth -- Stokey (Sp)</td>
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**OTHER COURSES**

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<tr>
<td>30600</td>
<td>Economics of Information -- Harris (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30680</td>
<td>Topics in Information Economics -- Kamenica (F)</td>
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<td>31800</td>
<td>Advanced Econometrics -- McDonald (F)</td>
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<td>32000</td>
<td>Topics in American History -- Galenson (F)</td>
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<td>33820</td>
<td>Advanced Macro Reading Group -- Kaplan (F, W, Sp)</td>
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<td>42900</td>
<td>Innovators -- Galenson (F)</td>
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<td>31740</td>
<td>Optimization Conscious -- Pouliot (W)</td>
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<td>35520</td>
<td>Development Economics: Microeconomic Issues -- Bursztyn/Voena (W)</td>
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<td>40902</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Marketing -- Dube (W)</td>
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<td>42800</td>
<td>Creativity -- Galenson (W)</td>
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<td>35570</td>
<td>Political Economy of Development -- Blattman/Robinson (Sp)</td>
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<td>Inequality: Theory, Methods and Evidence -- Heckman/Durlauf (Sp)</td>
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<td>36820</td>
<td>Empirical Topics in Social Insurance -- Deshpande (Sp)</td>
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<td>34901</td>
<td>Social Interactions and Inequality -- Durlauf (Sp)</td>
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**49700-49900 Required Research Seminar** (for Required Research Paper: to be arranged between individual faculty and students). See Time Schedule for faculty Section Numbers.
Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are intended to provide the basis for the Specialized Field requirements. Students are expected to be familiar with the material covered in these courses, but Field requirements generally do not exceed three courses. When a Field has two or three courses marked with an asterisk, those courses constitute the required sequence for the Field, whether evaluated by Preliminary Examinations and Papers or by GPA. If there are more than three courses students should check with the Chair of the Examining Committee. A course without an asterisk is an optional course in the Field and may be counted for General Distribution purposes only.

2018-19 CONVOCATION DEADLINES

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<th>Winter 19</th>
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FACULTY

Robert Shimer
Chairman of the Department of Economics, The Ahvin H. Baum Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2003).

Ufuk Akcigit
Associate Professor in Economics and the College; Director of Graduate Placement, and FY19 Director of Admissions (at Chicago since 2015). [On Leave Fall 2018 and Winter 2019]

Fernando Alvarez

Stéphane Bonhomme
Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2013). Managing Editor, Review of Economic Studies.

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