KENNETH C. GRIFFIN
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK
2019-2020

Chair: Prof. Robert Shimer
Director of Graduate Studies: Prof. Ufuk Akcigit
Graduate Student Affairs Administrator: F. Robert Herbst
Graduate Student Affairs Administrator: Amy Schulz

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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. Environmental/Public Finance
2. Econometrics and Statistics
3. Financial Economics (requirements count as two fields)
4. Industrial Organization
5. Labor Economics
6. Macroeconomics
7. Mathematical Economics
8. Trade & Growth
9. 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 Examinations tests mastery of material in these nine courses. A student must demonstrate competence in this material by passing each of the three component exams before continuing to the next stage of program requirements.

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 Pass on the Core Examination: one in July of the first year and the other, if necessary, two months later in September. If one or more exams need to be retaken, a petition requesting a waiver for the September exams and a retake the following July instead may be considered for exceptional circumstances.

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 grade of Pass or Fail based on their performance for each of the three Core examinations. Students must retake only those component exams they failed. Passing all three exams will result in a PhD Pass for the Core Examination. Failure to pass one or more exams their second time will result in the student not being allowed to continue in the program.

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 in the University during the academic year.

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 rules are subject to changes by the faculty from time to time, and students in the programs are urged to consult the most recent booklet. The contents of this handbook do not create a contract between any individual and the Department or the University, and are subject to change from time to time at the sole discretion of the Department.
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
Examinations In Absentia - 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.

* Unless the student is out-of-sequence. Completion Time below.

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.
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 viability of 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 - 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 must submit a petition with a supporting letter from a faculty member stating continued progress on the Thesis Proposal. Petitions must be submitted to the Graduate Student Affairs Administrator by June 1 before the beginning of their fifth year of study. The Director of Graduate Studies will decide on these petitions by June 30. A petition must be made by June 1 in subsequent years if a Thesis Proposal is not yet completed. Failure to submit a petition or if a petition is declined by the Director Graduate Studies then the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

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/](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 criteria that can be used for the M.A. degree:

1. Obtaining a PhD Pass for the Core examination.

2. Receiving a quality letter grade in the nine Core courses: Economics 30100, 30200, 30300, Economics 31000, 31100, 31200, and Economics 33000, 33100, 33200 and maintaining a minimum 2.7 GPA.

**SUMMER GRANT DISBURSEMENT POLICY**

Students with Social Sciences Division (SSD) funding of four summer research grants will receive the first grant their first summer after matriculating. Their second summer 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 - Stokey (F)
- 33100 Theory of Income II - Golosov (W)
- 33200 Theory of Income III - Alvarez (Sp)

Quantitative Methods
- 30400 Introduction to Mathematical Methods in Economics (Math Camp) - Staff

THE SPECIALIZED FIELDS

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

Environmental & Public Economics (Paper certification)
- 36000* Public Finance – Golosov (F)
- 36730* Environmental and Energy Economics I – Kellogg (W)
- 36750* Environmental and Energy Economics III – Ito (Sp)

Or
- 36000* Public Finance – Golosov (F)
- 36200* Public Sector Economics - Mulligan (F)
- 36330* New Developments in Public Finance – Gottlieb, Zwick and Zimmerman (Sp)

Financial Economics (requirements count as two fields GPA certification)

Four Required Courses:
- 35050* Asset Pricing I - Constantides/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:
- 39600* Topics in Asset Pricing – Veronesi (W)
- BUSN 35901* Theory of Financial Decisions – Nagel (Sp)
- 36330* New Developments in Public Finance – Zwick (Sp)
- 41150* Behavioral Finance – Hartzmark (Sp)
- BUSN 35908* Research Projects: Finance – Fama (Sp)
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<td>40101*</td>
<td>Advanced Industrial Organization I -- Syverson (F)</td>
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<td>40201*</td>
<td>Advanced Industrial Organization II -- Hortacsu (W)</td>
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<td>Job Mobility/Wage Determinants -- Neal (F)</td>
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<td>Human Capital, Markets, and the Family -- Heckman (W)</td>
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<td>Topics in Labor Markets: Earnings and Employment -- Lamadon (Sp)</td>
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<td>Monetary Economics -- Alvarez (F)</td>
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<td>Applied Macroeconomics: Heterogeneity and Macro -- Kekre/Vavra (W)</td>
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<td>Macroeconomics and Financial Frictions -- Uhlig (W)</td>
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<td>Topics in Information Economics -- Kamenica (F)</td>
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<td>Topics in Theoretical Economics -- Reny (W)</td>
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<td>Irrational Inattention -- Ravid (Sp)</td>
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<td>35101*</td>
<td>International Macroeconomics &amp; Trade -- Dingel (F)</td>
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<td>Firm Dynamics and Economic Growth -- Akcigit (W)</td>
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<td>Advanced Theory Corporate Finance Capital Markets -- He (Sp)</td>
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<td>34901</td>
<td>Social Interactions and Inequality -- Durlauf (Sp)</td>
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**OTHER COURSES**

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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, then 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.

2019-20 CONVOCATION DEADLINES

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FACULTY

Robert Shimer  
*Chairman of the Department of Economics. The Alvin H. Baum Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2003). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.*

Ufuk Akcigit  
*Professor in Economics and the College; Director of Graduate Studies, Co-Director of Graduate Placement (at Chicago since 2015).*

Fernando Alvarez  
*The Saieh Family Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1996). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.*

Neele Balke  
*Senior Research Associate - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics.*

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

Benjamin Brooks  
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2016). [On Leave 2019-20]*

Leonardo Bursztyn  
*Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2016). [On Leave Winter and Spring 2020]*

Chris Clapp  
*Senior Research Associate - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics.*

Manasi Deshpande  
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2016). [On Leave 2019-20]*

Michael Dinerstein  
*Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2015). [On Leave Autumn 2019]*

Ryan Y. Fang  
*Assistant Instructional Professor – Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2016).*

David Galenson  
*Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1978). Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 2008; Academic Director of the Center for Creativity Economics, Universidad del CEMA, 2010.*
Mikhail Golosov
The Homer J. Livingston Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2017).

Alessandra González
Senior Research Associate - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics.

Michael Greenstone
The Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, and the College, and the Harris School; Director of the Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC); Director of the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics (at Chicago 2000-2003 and since 2014). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Lars Peter Hansen
The David Rockefeller Distinguished Service Professor in Economics, Statistics and the Booth School of Business; Director, Macro Financial Research Initiative (at Chicago since 1982). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, 2013.

Arnold C. Harberger
The Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Economics (at Chicago since 1953).

James J. Heckman
The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College; Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies; Director of the Center for the Economics of Human Development; Director of the Center for Social Program Evaluation; Co-Director, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group, sponsored by INET (Institute for New Economic Thinking) (at Chicago since 1973). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, 2000.

Ali Hortaçsu
The Ralph and Mary Otis Isham Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2001). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2016.

Peter Hull
Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2019).

Juanna Schroter Joensen
Senior Research Associate - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics.

Greg Kaplan
Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2016).

Kanit Kuevibulvanich
Assistant Instructional Professor - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2017).

Thibaut Lamadon
Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2015).
Min Sok Lee
*Assistant Instructional Professor - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2016).*

Steve Levitt
*The William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1997). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2002; Fellow, Econometric Society, 2004; John Bates Clark Medal Winner, 2004.*

Victor O. Lima
*Senior Lecturer in Economics and the College; Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics (at Chicago since 2001).*

John List
*The Kenneth C. Griffin Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2005). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.*

Robert E. Lucas, Jr.

Magne Mogstad
*Gary S. Becker Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2014).*

Simon Mongey
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2018); NBER Faculty Research Fellow, Economic Fluctuations and Growth Group.*

Casey Mulligan
*Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1993).*

Kevin M. Murphy

Roger B. Myerson
*The David L. Pearson Distinguished Service Professor in Economics, the College and the Harris School (at Chicago since 2001). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, 2007.*

Derek A. Neal
*The William C. Norby Professor in Economics and the College; (at Chicago 1991-1998 and since 2001).*

Susanne Neckermann
*Senior Research Associate - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics.*
Pablo Pena  
*Assistant Instructional Professor - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2019).*

Gina Pieters  
*Assistant Instructional Professor - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2018).*

Doron Ravid  
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2015). [On Leave Winter 2020]*

Philip J. Reny  
*The Hugo F. Sonnenschein Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1999). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2015; Fellow, Econometric Society, 1996.*

Christopher Roark  
*Assistant Instructional Professor - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2017).*

Allen R. Sanderson  
*Senior Lecturer in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1984).*

Thomas Sargent  
*Distinguished Senior Fellow, The Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics*

Azeem Shaikh  
*Ralph and Mary Otis Osham Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2007).*

Hugo F. Sonnenschein  
*The Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1993).*

Nancy L. Stokey  
*The Frederick Henry Prince Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1990). Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.*

Max Tabord-Meehan  
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2019).*

Pietro Tebaldi  
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2016). [On Leave 2019-20]*

Lester G. Telser  
*Professor Emeritus in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 1958).*

Felix Tintelnot  
*Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2014). [On Leave Spring 2020]*
George S. Tolley

Alexander Torgovitsky
Assistant Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2017).

Robert Townsend
Associate Faculty Member, The Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics

Harald Uhlig
The Bruce Allen and Barbara Ritzenthaler Professor in Economics and the College (at Chicago since 2007).

Srinivasan Vasudevan
Assistant Instructional Professor - Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, University of Chicago (at Chicago since 2019).

Alessandra Voena
Professor in Economics and the College; Co-Director of Graduate Placement (at Chicago since 2012).

Kotaro Yoshida
Senior Lecturer in Economics and the College; Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies (at Chicago since 2012).

OTHER ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Jesse Backstrom | Post-Doctoral Fellow  
Department of Economics        
University of Chicago |
| Michael Graber     | Research Professional  
Department of Economics        
University of Chicago |
| Julie Pernaudet   | Post-Doctoral Scholar  
Department of Economics        
University of Chicago |
| Bradley Setzler   | Post-Doctoral Scholar  
Department of Economics        
University of Chicago |
| Elif Tok          | Post-Doctoral Scholar  
Department of Economics        
University of Chicago |
**VISITORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marinho Bertanha</td>
<td>Visiting Assistant Professor</td>
<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>[2019-20]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yefeng Chen</td>
<td>Visiting Scholar</td>
<td></td>
<td>[2019-20]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raphael Corbi</td>
<td>Visiting Assistant Professor</td>
<td>University of Sao Paulo</td>
<td>[Summer, Autumn and Winter 2019-20]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giovanni Ponti</td>
<td>Visiting Professor</td>
<td>University of Alicante</td>
<td>[Spring 2020]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukanuka Roy</td>
<td>Visiting Scholar</td>
<td></td>
<td>[2019-20]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yingchao Zhang</td>
<td>Visiting Scholar</td>
<td></td>
<td>[Autumn 2019]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSOCIATED FACULTY**

**Black, Dan**  
Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies

**Carlton, Dennis**  
Chicago Booth School of Business

**Constantinides, George**  
Chicago Booth School of Business

**Davis, Steven J.**  
Chicago Booth School of Business

**Diamond, Douglas W.**  
Chicago Booth School of Business

**Dubé, Jean-Pierre**  
Chicago Booth School of Business
Durlauf, Steven
Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies

Fama, Eugene F.
Chicago Booth School of Business

Guerrieri, Veronica
Chicago Booth School of Business

Harris, Milton
Chicago Booth School of Business

He, Zhiguo
Chicago Booth School of Business

Heaton, John C.
Chicago Booth School of Business

Hitsch, Günter
Chicago Booth School of Business

Hurst, Erik
Chicago Booth School of Business

Malani, Anup
University of Chicago Law School

Meltzer, David Dr.
Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies

Meyer, Bruce D.
Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies

Philipson, Tomas J.
Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies

Seru, Amit
Chicago Booth School of Business

Syverson, Chad
Chicago Booth School of Business

Vavra, Joseph
Chicago Booth School of Business

Veronesi, Pietro
Chicago Booth School of Business