



## Economics Ph.D. Program Frequently Asked Questions 6/13/07

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1. Where can I find detailed information about your Program's curriculum?

*The Ph.D. handbook has detailed information about the Ph.D. curriculum and requirements. Follow the link at the Ph.D. Program web page:  
<http://www.ou.edu/cas/econ/phd.html>.*

2. Do I need a master's degree in economics to enroll in the Ph.D. program?

*A master's degree in economics (or any other field) is not required to enter the Ph.D. program. We require some intermediate micro and macroeconomics background and a solid understanding of mathematics and statistics. Specifically, we require at least 2 semesters of calculus and a semester of basic statistics. A course in linear algebra is highly recommended. Calculus courses offered by math departments provide better preparation than those of business departments and are more highly regarded. The more mathematics you have the better are your chances of getting accepted with funding into our program.*

3. Can I start the Ph.D. program in January during the spring term?

*The Ph.D. program has a lock-step curriculum during the first 2 years. The fall semester courses are prerequisites for the spring semester courses. Thus, we only allow students to begin the Ph.D. program in the fall term. If you miss this deadline, then you will need*

*to wait for the falling fall semester to begin the Ph.D. coursework. You could, however, enroll in the MA-managerial program in January.*

4. Does your department fund international students?

*We make funding offers to the best qualified applicants. The majority of our funded Ph.D. students are international, the majority of which are Chinese. We emphasize diversity and have had students from China, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and even Oklahoma.*

5. How many students apply for your Ph.D. program each year? How many applicants are international?

*We receive approximately 25-30 applicants per year. About 70-80% of these are from international students, mostly from China (about 15-20 per year).*

6. How many new Ph.D. students does your department offer funding to per year?

*We make between 7 and 10 offers of financial aid to new Ph.D. students per year.*

7. What are the average GRE scores of students who have received financial aid in the past?

*Based on the previous four years, median GRE scores were approximately 590 for verbal and 780 for the quantitative.*

8. What work is expected of students who receive funding?

*Students receiving financial aid are expected to contribute to our teaching mission. They typically spend the first year being a grader or research assistant. In the second and third year, they serve as teaching assistants in lab sections of large principles or statistics courses. By the fourth year most students teach individual sections of principles or intermediate courses. Because funding is based on teaching contributions, we require all students to become certified to instruct at the University of Oklahoma. This requires all students to attend teaching assistant training seminars which are offered each August prior to the beginning of the fall term. International students who do not speak English as their native language and are not otherwise exempt are required to pass spoken and written English proficiency tests given by the English Language Assessment office.*

9. What can I do to increase my chances of getting financial assistance?

*There are several things you can do to demonstrate your preparation for the rigors of graduate study in Economics. First, provide complete and solid application materials. Do your best on GREs or retake them if they are low. Send recommendation letters from faculty members who are informed about graduate work in economics and who can speak to your potential. Write an application essay that demonstrates your understanding of graduate*

*economics research. Finally, take as much mathematics as possible. If you are taking courses in the spring semester of your senior year, please let us know about these.*

10. How can an international student increase her chances of receiving financial aid?

*Besides the suggestions in the answers to question 7, the number one thing an international student can do is to provide evidence of English proficiency. Such can be documented in a letter or email by a fluent English speaker, preferably an individual at your current academic institution. You could also call the Graduate Program Director in late January or early February (after your application has been processed) to demonstrate your interest and ability. Please do not call before your application has been processed by the Economics Department.*

11. What are my options if I don't meet conditions for admission to the Ph.D. program?

*If you do not meet admissions requirements, you need to address these BEFORE applying to the program. If your grades are poor then you could take a semester or two of graduate work, preferably in economics another quantitative field. The Graduate College considers your last 60 hours of undergraduate work or your last 12 hours of graduate work. As stated before, we are very concerned with mathematics preparation. Demonstrating solid understanding of inferential and differential calculus, linear algebra and statistics is essential for admission to the program.*

13. Where do your Ph.D. graduates get jobs?

*Our Ph.D. alumni work at academic institutions, government organizations, and public and private organizations throughout the world. Placements of our Ph.D. students in the past five years include: Blackburn College, Econ One, Florida Atlantic University, Global Energy Decisions, Ming Chuan University- Graduate School of International Affairs (Taiwan), Milken Institute, Ohio University, Pepperdine University, PT Citra Van Titipan Kila, (Jakarta), Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, Salem State University, Southern Arkansas University, Texas Tech University, University of California-Fullerton, West Texas A&M University, and York College.*