

The Ph.D. Program Stages

First year core courses and preliminary exams

Students in the first academic year (three quarters) enroll in and complete core economic theory courses in Econometrics, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics. At the end of the first academic year (June) Ph.D. students take three preliminary examinations; Microeconomics, Econometrics, and Macroeconomics

Second year field specialization. Students continuing into the second year take field specialization courses, completing two fields that are offered in the areas of: Econometrics, Environmental and Natural Resources, Experimental and Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Macroeconomic Theory and Policy, Microeconomic Theory, and Public Economics.

Second-year and onward research groups. Beginning in the second year, every student is assigned to a research group in their area of interest. Every group meets weekly for students to present their research, at stages ranging from an initial idea to completed papers. Groups typically have two faculty members and 8-10 students participating.

Advancement to candidacy and completion of a dissertation normally takes three or four years. During this period students form a dissertation committee, discuss and present a research proposal which is approved by the committee, completes an original dissertation, go on the job market, files dissertation and graduates. Completion of a dissertation after advancing to candidacy typically takes two to three years. The dissertation must be based on original research and represent a significant contribution to the body of economic knowledge.

The entire process takes approximately five to six years, although some students are able to complete the program in less time.

About Us

The Ph.D. graduate degree program at Santa Barbara is designed for students interested in pursuing original research and the advanced study of Economics. With renowned faculty and a history of strong graduate student placements, US News & World Report ranks our Department among the top forty institutions worldwide.

The UCSB Department of Economics actively seeks to recruit graduate students of all backgrounds. We believe that a diverse student body helps to promote diversity of thought and enhances its members' ability to achieve academic excellence. We highly encourage applications from any and all underrepresented, underserved, and marginalized groups in the Economics community, and the U.S. at large. These groups may include women, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), the LGBTQIA+ community, religious minorities, and more.

Our PhD program is made up of domestic and international students with a wide range of perspectives, experiences, and research interests. Our graduate-student led group, WeSB-- which aims to serve our students from historically underrepresented communities--often works as a liaison between graduate students and faculty on issues of diversity and inclusion within our community. Graduate students are also present on faculty-led task force committees aiming to promote diversity in our department.

The UCSB Department of Economics is part of a campus and University system which strives to create a diverse academic community. The UC Board of Regents recognizes that diversity is an integral piece of its mission as a university system. UCSB is the first university in the prestigious Association of American Universities to be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution. According to the nonprofit Campus Pride, the University has earned a four-and-a-half star rating for LGBTQ-friendliness.

Contact Us

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UC SANTA BARBARA

Economics PhD Program



PhD Placement Outcomes

UCSB PhD students start their careers in a wide variety of excellent appointments. Some examples are:

Alibaba Group
American University of Beirut
Analysis Group
Arizona State University
Brigham Young University
Bureau of Labor Statistics
California Polytechnic Institute, San Luis Obispo
Capital University of Business and Economics
Carleton University, Sprott School of Business
College of the Holy Cross
Department of Justice Antitrust Division
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Lyft
Resources for the Future
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
State University of New York at Albany
Universidad de los Andes (Columbia)
UC Davis
University of Miami
University of Queensland
University of Virginia
University of Warwick
Vanderbilt University

The Application Process

For more information on applying to our graduate program in economics, please visit the following sites:

www.econ.ucsb.edu

www.graddiv.ucsb/admissions

Financial Support

The Department expects to offer a full financial package to all accepted PhD students, which will cover a stipend, full tuition, and health insurance. The package is guaranteed for five years for students making satisfactory progress.



The Economics Department hosts multiple research centers for students, faculty, and visitors involved in economic discovery.

Laboratory for Aggregate Economics and Finance (LAEF) hosts workshops and intensive seminars focusing on a specific topic or hypothesis involving modern Economics. In addition to sponsoring conferences and workshops, the Laboratory provides an environment in which to conduct topical research in quantitative aggregate theory by resident and short-term visiting scholars.

Leonard and Gretchan Broom Center for Demography facilitates and engages in research and training in the areas of social demography, population studies, and social and economic inequality.

The Economics department hosts the **Experimental and Behavioral Economics Laboratory (EBEL)** which hosts conferences and workshops by and for graduate students examining issues in behavioral and experimental economics. In addition, EBEL gives faculty, graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to be actively involved in lab experiments.



The Center for Applied Research in Economics (CARE) facilitates research in Applied Microeconomics and Applied Economic Policy Research. CARE's focuses include: Environmental policy, Tax policy, Health economics, Gender and family policy, and Labor economics.

CARE utilizes a common set of Econometric tools and other modern applied methods, such as field experiments, to tie together research among these broad topics. Additionally, CARE organizes a seminar series for applied researchers, internal workshops (including workshops on Labor and Econometrics), and conferences. CARE also manages interactions between the Department of Economics, the Bren School, and the Broom Center for Demography.

The Theory and Experiment Center (TEC) facilitates research in Theoretical Economics and Experimental Economics, as well as bridging and integrating findings across these two fields. The UCSB Department of Economics is uniquely well suited for housing a Theory and Experiment Center; our faculty in these two areas collaborate closely on research, graduate student training, joint seminar series, and reading and discussion groups. This approach has great promise for producing economic theory that is more predictive and useful in applied work than traditional theoretical approaches. The TEC hosts visitors and holds conferences, bringing together some of the most prestigious scholars working to integrate empirical evidence and psychological realism into economic theory.

The Aggregate Economics Center (AEC) supports research in: Economic growth and fluctuations, the implications of growth and fluctuations on economic well-being and policy, Business cycles and monetary policy, and Causes and consequences of unemployment.

The AEC will organize departmental seminars, conferences, host academic visitors and engage in a variety of activities to stimulate path-breaking research. This center will have a strong connection with Finn Kydland's Laboratory for Aggregate Economics and Finance.

Environmental Market Solutions Lab [emLab], a joint project of the Bren School, the Marine Science Institute, and the economics department is an interdisciplinary team of economists and scientists based at UC Santa Barbara dedicated to bringing market-based solutions to the world's most pressing environmental problems.

