Economics Ph.D. Program Specialization Coursework

Students are required to complete a minimum of 28 *unique* units of advanced coursework in their second year of the Ph.D. program, not counting new seminars. The courses taken must fulfill the requirements for at least two fields they wish to specialize in. A course may count for more than one field, but 28 unique units from the UCSB Economics department are required. Core and Elective courses offered for each specialization are listed in the table below. **All classes are 2 units (i.e., half a quarter of instruction) unless specified otherwise, and classes with an asterisk will be offered in the 2025/6 academic year.** A repository of class syllabi is available at https://tinyurl.com/3y4mu29y.

Fulfilling Requirements for a Specialization

- If a specialization offers elective classes, students must complete 16 units in total. At least 8 of these units must come from core courses.
- If a specialization does not offer elective classes, students must complete 12 units in total. All 12 units must come from core courses.
- A passing grade of B or better is required for a course to count towards a field of specialization or elective.

Field	Core Courses		Elective Courses	
Macroeconomics **16 total units. At least 8 Core units required.**	214A	Economic Development*	260E	Natural Resource: Continuous-Time Methods*
	228	Aggregate Economics (4 units)	260G	Environmental Externalities and Regulation*
	253A	Job Search Theory	260I	Time, Uncertainty, and Environmental Policy*
	253B	Search and Matching* (4 units)	230A	Public Economics I
	227	Computational Methods for Macroeconomics (4 units)	230B	Public Economics II
	229	Macroeconomic Theory and Policy* (4 units)	245N	Causal Machine Learning* (4 units)
	218	Topics in Firm Dynamics*		
Experimental and Behavioral Economics **12 Core units required**	278A	Experimental Methods		
	278B	Games in the Laboratory		
	278C	Individual Decision Making in the Laboratory*		
	278H	Attention and Perception*		
	214C	Behavioral Development Economics		
	215H	Behavioral Economics*		
	245J	Field Experiments*		
	260I	Time, Uncertainty, and Environmental Policy*		
	215B	Bounded Rationality*		
Econometrics **12 Core units required**	245B	Time Series Econometrics		
	245E	Introduction to Bayesian Econometrics		
	245F	Generalized Method of Moments and Instrumental Variables		
	245G	Panel Data and Difference-in-Differences*		
	245H	Clustering, Bootstrapping, and Multiple Comparisons*		
	245I	Regression Discontinuity Designs		
	245J	Field Experiments*		
	245L	Nonparametric Econometrics*		
	245M	Data Wrangling		
	245N	Causal Machine Learning* (4 units)		

Field	Code	Course	Code	Course
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics **16 total units. At least 8 Core units required.**	260D	Natural Resource: Dynamic Programming Methods	214C	Behavioral Development Economics
	260E	Natural Resource: Continuous-Time Methods*	230A	Public Economics I
	260G	Environmental Externalities and Regulation*	230B	Public Economics II
	260I	Time, Uncertainty, and Environmental Policy*	230C	Individual Taxation*
	260K	Environmental and Development Economics	245G	Panel Data and Difference-in- Differences*
			245H	Clustering, Bootstrapping, and Multiple Comparisons*
			245I	Regression Discontinuity Designs
			245J	Field Experiments*
			245N	Causal Machine Learning* (4 units)
			227	Computational Methods for Macroeconomics (4 units)
			214A	Economic Development*
			215H	Behavioral Economics*
			230J	Health Economics II
Labor Economics **16 total units. At least 8 Core units required.**	250D	Population Economics* (4 units)	245F	Generalized Method of Moments & Instrumental Variables
	250E	Labor Supply*	245G	Panel Data and Difference-in-Differences*
	250F	Labor Demand and Wage Differentials	245H	Clustering, Bootstrapping, and Multiple Comparisons*
	250G	Economics of Education	245I	Regression Discontinuity Designs
	250H	Human Capital	245J	Field Experiments*
	250I	Personnel Economics*	245L	Nonparametric Econometrics*
	250J	Empirical Search and Recruiting	245M	Data Wrangling
	230I	Health Economics*	245N	Causal Machine Learning* (4 units)
	230J	Health Economics II	230C	Individual Taxation*
	250K	Personnel Economics II*	230D	Capital Taxation*
	214C	Behavioral Development Economics		
Public Economics **16 total units. At least 8 Core units required.**	230A	Public Economics I	214C	Behavioral Development Economics
	230B	Public Economics II	245F	Generalized Method of Moments and Instrumental Variables
	230C	Individual Taxation*	245G	Panel Data and Difference-in-Differences*
	230D	Capital Taxation*	245H	Clustering, Bootstrapping, and Multiple Comparisons*
	230F	Behavioral Public Finance	245I	Regression Discontinuity Designs
	230G	Tax Incidence	245J	Field Experiments*
			245L	Nonparametric Econometrics*
			245M	Data Wrangling
			230I	Health Economics*
			230J	Health Economics II
			260I	Time, Uncertainty, and Environmental Policy*
			260G	Environmental Externalities and Regulation*
			250D	Population Economics* (4 units)