Economics

Graduate Programs

2016-2017
Faculty and Staff

Chair

William T. Dickens, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
*University Distinguished Professor*
*Jointly appointed with the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs*
*Fields: Labor markets, wage determination, unemployment, intelligence testing, and psychology and economics*

Professors

M. Shahid Alam, PhD, University of Western Ontario
*Fields: Development economics, international trade*

James D. Dana, Jr., PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
*Jointly appointed with the College of Business Administration*
*Fields: Industrial organization, competitive strategy, operations management*

John E. Kwoka, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
*Finnegan Distinguished Professor*
*Field: Industrial organization*

Patrick Legros, PhD, California Institute of Technology
*Fields: Contract theory, industrial organization*

Steven A. Morrison, PhD, University of California-Berkeley
*Field: Transportation economics*

Associate Professors

Neil O. Alper, PhD, University of Pittsburgh
*Fields: Labor economics, economics of crime, cultural economics*

Oscar T. Brookins, PhD, State University of New York-Buffalo
*Fields: Economic theory, policy*

Alan Clayton-Matthews, PhD, Boston College
*Jointly appointed with the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs*
*Field: Quantitative methods*

Kamran M. Dadkhah, PhD, Indiana University
*Fields: Econometrics, macroeconomics*

Mindy Marks, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
*Fields: Labor, Health, Education*

Alicia Sasser Modestino, PhD, Harvard University
*Jointly appointed with the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs*
*Fields: Health economics, labor economics, regional economics*
Gregory H. Wassall, PhD, Rutgers University  
*Graduate Program Director*  
*Fields: Public economics, cultural economics*

### Assistant Professors

Bilge Erten, PhD, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
*Jointly appointed with the International Affairs Program*  
*Fields: Development economics, gender, international macroeconomics*

Catalina Herrera Almanza, PhD, Cornell University  
*Jointly appointed with the International Affairs Program*  
*Fields: Development economics, gender, labor economics*

Ivan Petkov, PhD, Boston College  
*Fields: Macroeconomics, Finance, Monetary Economics, Banking, Economic Growth*

Imke Reimers, PhD, University of Minnesota  
*Field: Industrial organization*

### Teaching Professor

Peter Simon, PhD, Northern Illinois University  
*Fields: Urban/Regional economics, labor, econometrics*

### Assistant Teaching Professors

Ilter Bakkal, PhD, Northern Illinois University  
*Fields: Environmental Economics, Managerial Economics*

Nancy Kimelman, PhD, Brown University  
*Fields: Finance, Monetary Economics, Banking*

Michael Stone, PhD, University of Connecticut  
JD, University of Connecticut School of Law  
*Fields: Law and Economics, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics*

Gustavo Vicentini, PhD, Boston University  
*Fields: Industrial Organization, Econometrics*

### Staff

**Cheryl Fonville**, Administrative Officer  
email: c.fonville@neu.edu  
phone: (617) 373-2872

**Kathleen Downey**, Administrative Secretary  
email: k.downey@neu.edu  
phone: (617) 373-2887
The most distinctive feature of Northeastern University’s graduate programs in economics is an emphasis on applied economics, coupled with attention to providing a solid grounding in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory, and econometrics. Students come from all over the world, and the curriculum is designed with this in mind, striving for balance in coverage of economies that are rich and poor, large and small, mixed and market. This gives a unique flavor to the course of study, making it well-suited to the analysis of the emerging global economy of the twenty-first century.

The Graduate Programs

The Department of Economics offers both a Master’s and a PhD program. The Master of Arts program is in applied economic policy analysis, with broad specialization areas. The program is large enough to support a full slate of core and area courses each year, yet small enough to maintain a sense of community among the students. The program is especially appropriate for those who wish to work in or return to positions in government, teaching, finance, or industry while providing a rigorous basis for those who want to continue their studies to the doctoral level.

The PhD program is a small focused one, specializing in Industrial Organization, Competition Policy, and Regulatory Economics, and Labor Economics.

The department is associated with the Kitty & Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy. The department is home to the Journal of Transport Economics and Policy and the administrative office of the Industrial Organization Society.

The University’s location in Boston provides ready access to many agencies. Boston is the regional headquarters of several federal agencies, including the departments of Labor; Health and Human Services; Education; Commerce; and Housing and Urban Development. In addition, the region’s Federal Reserve Bank is located in Boston, and the National Bureau of Economic Research is located in Cambridge. Research resources available to Northeastern students include the University's Snell Library, a wide variety of relevant software, such as Stata, SAS, SPSS, Matlab, Maple, and Mathematica, on the University's NUNET network, and a variety of databases used by economists maintained by the Department.

Financial Aid

Stipended Graduate Assistantships provide a stipend, tuition remission, and student health insurance in exchange for work. College of Social Sciences and Humanities Dean’s Scholarships provide tuition remission.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory progress means satisfying requirements in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Graduate Programs General Regulations and in the regulations specified in the departmental booklet. The College sets minimum standards for all students to fulfill. Departments and programs may have additional requirements that exceed those of the College. Each PhD student will have an annual review of his/her progress toward the degree. Receipt of financial support administered by the Graduate Office is contingent on satisfactory academic progress toward the degree and on meeting department-specific guidelines. See the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Graduate Programs General Regulations for further details.
The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD program is small and focused, with students concentrating in one field of specialization. Fewer than ten students enter the program each year. Students may concentrate in either Industrial Organization, Competition Policy, and Regulatory Economics, or Labor Economics, or both, each covered in two semester courses at the PhD level. Students who elect the Industrial Organization, Competition Policy, and Regulatory Economics field may further elect a second field in Transportation Economics. Admission from the Bachelor’s level requires taking the MA core courses and two additional elective courses plus the PhD requirements. Curriculum requirements for the PhD in Applied Economics are listed below, for entry from both the Bachelor’s and the Master’s levels.

Sample PhD Curriculum (entering with a BS/BA)

12 courses, 4 semester hours each

  4 required MA core courses:
  • Microeconomic Theory I
  • Macroeconomic Theory I
  • Mathematics and Statistics for Economists
  • Applied Econometrics I

  3 required PhD core courses:
  • Microeconomic Theory II
  • Macroeconomic Theory II
  • Applied Econometrics II

  2 PhD level field courses

  3 elective courses

Total = 48 semester hours
Sample PhD Curriculum (entering with an MS/MA in Economics)

6 courses, 4 semester hours each

3 required PhD core courses:
• Microeconomic Theory II
• Macroeconomic Theory II
• Applied Econometrics II

2 PhD level field courses

1 elective course

Total = 24 semester hours

Other Degree Requirements

Other degree requirements include passing qualifying examinations in microeconomics and macroeconomics that are taken in the semester after completing Microeconomic Theory II and Macroeconomic Theory II and passing a field comprehensive exam (in either industrial organization or labor) that incorporates testing in applied econometrics and is taken in the semester after completing the field sequence.

Once a student is registered for Doctoral Dissertation, he or she must regularly attend field seminars in industrial organization and labor economics. These seminars meet roughly every week and their purpose is to assist students in choosing and evaluating dissertation topics as well as advancing and completing their dissertations. By the end of one semester after completing their coursework and passing their field comprehensive exam, PhD students enrolled in Doctoral Dissertation must choose an advisor and form a dissertation committee, and by the end of two semesters after completing their coursework and passing their field comprehensive exam, PhD Students must submit a dissertation proposal to the dissertation committee members and defend it in an open seminar.

In addition, once a PhD student has passed the field comprehensive exam and is registered for Doctoral Dissertation, he or she must participate in the department's Practical Experience in Applied Economics program in which a variety of prominent practitioners in the fields of industrial organization and labor, working in consulting and government agencies, will describe their practical experience applying economics to a variety of consulting and policy problems including antitrust, regulation, labor market policy, education, and health policy.

All PhD students registered for Doctoral Dissertation or the continuation thereof who are in residence will be expected to attend the department's academic speaker series and one of the field seminars for doctoral students. Finally, all dissertations must be defended which consists of presenting the dissertation to the dissertation committee in an open seminar.

Annual Student Progress Review

All PhD students are required to meet with their faculty advisors for an annual student progress review. The reviews will be submitted to the Department’s Graduate Studies Committee, which will determine whether satisfactory progress is being made and students are eligible to proceed to complete their graduate work. The College’s Graduate Office will receive a copy of each student’s review.
The Master of Arts Degree

The Master of Arts is a degree in applied economic policy analysis. The program is designed to serve the need for a terminal graduate degree for professional economists, government officials, and economic consultants, and to lay the groundwork for students who wish to pursue the PhD degree. Paid work as a practicing economist for 3–6 months may be included in the degree program of qualified students toward the end of their program.

Approximately thirty students enter the program each year. Students are required to complete at least thirty-two semester hours of academic work, of which sixteen semester hours constitute core courses.

The MA degree is designed to provide a solid foundation in economic theory and quantitative methods (core courses), while providing an opportunity for students to apply the tools of economic analysis to particular policy areas. The focus of the program is on application and practice. Development of presentation skills and ability to produce project-oriented writing assignments are essential to the program and are emphasized in the elective (application) courses. Even the core courses incorporate application of theory and/or methods. The ability to incorporate a co-op experience (paid work for up to 2 semesters) into the program enhances the practice orientation of the degree.

The courses in the program are shown in the Graduate Catalog, http://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/. Each course earns four semester hours of credit. Also, with the prior approval of the Graduate Program Director, a student may select a maximum of four semester hours from graduate courses offered by other departments.

Sample MA Curriculum

8 courses, 4 semester hours each

4 required/core courses:
  • Microeconomic Theory I
  • Macroeconomic Theory I
  • Mathematics and Statistics for Economists
  • Applied Econometrics I

4 electives

Total = 32 semester hours

Master’s Thesis

A master’s thesis earning a maximum of four semester hours of credit is optional. The thesis topic and committee must be approved by the Graduate Program Director.
Sample Course Listing

The following is a sample listing of departmental course offerings. Please refer to [www.northeastern.edu/registrar](http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar) for course descriptions and relevant prerequisites. All courses are 4 semester hours (sh) unless otherwise noted.

- Math and Statistics for Economists
- Microeconomic Theory
- Macroeconomic Theory
- Applied Econometrics
- Topics in Applied Economics
- Applied Microeconomics Policy Analysis
- Applied Macroeconomics Policy Analysis
- History of Economic Thought
- Workshop in Applied Econometrics
- International Economic Development
- International Finance
- International Trade
- International Integration
- Urban Economic Systems
- Urban Economic Development
- Regional Economic Theory
- Labor Economics
- Economics of Human Capital Inequality and Poverty
- Economics of Government
- Economics of Law and Regulation
- Industrial Organization
- Internship in Economics Readings
- Thesis
- Thesis Continuation (0sh)
- Microeconomic Theory 2
- Macroeconomic Theory 2
- Applied Econometrics 2
- Labor Market Analysis
- Topics in Labor Economics
- Framework of Industrial Organization
- Public Policy Toward Business
- Dissertation (0sh)
- Dissertation Continuation (0sh)