

**SELF-ASSESSMENT - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
UGA ECONOMICS**

Condition #1: *The right people apply for doctoral study.*

Condition #2: *The right applicants are admitted as doctoral students*

Condition #3: *Students and faculty form productive working relationships*

Condition #4: *Students experience social support from fellow students*

Conditions	Goals /Activities	Timeline
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of fields of specialization that we offer to better focus the program and to concentrate on improving these areas, which is aimed to improve the applicant pool. • Make curriculum changes (discussed in more detail below) that are designed to speed program completion. This will induce students who are motivated to complete the program in timely fashion to apply. • Charge the department’s graduate program committee with annually reviewing the graduate program web page for appropriate content, and to continually suggest updates and improvements. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Fall 2006</p> <p>Fall 2006</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track completion rates and time-to-completion more carefully than in the past. In particular, we will measure the percentage of students admitted who successfully pass preliminary exams, and the percentage of students passing preliminary exams who defend the dissertation within four, five or six years. These performance measures of completion have been incorporated into the department’s strategic plan. 	<p>Fall 2006</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider imposing a deadline for successfully defending the dissertation proposal. This will clarify the department’s expectations on how students should be progressing through the program, and will encourage the timely establishment of faculty-student working relationships. • “Speed up” our curriculum by offering a foundational course during the summer, which will allow the core 	<p>Fall 2006</p> <p>Fall 2007</p>

	<p>curriculum to be completed in the first year of the program. Theory preliminary exams will be administered during the summer after the first year, field courses will be completed during the second year, and field exams administered during the second summer. These scheduling changes will move students faster into research and writing, which is the key to successful and timely completion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a new course in research methods, the aim of which is to teach students how to do research and to help jump-start them on their dissertation research. This course will be offered at the beginning of the third year, and requires a paper to be written and presented to the faculty. We are optimistic that this course and the new structure of the program will improve the quality of our program and completion. 	Done
4	(Condition # 4 is not perceived by the department as a problem; therefore, no activities were proposed)	Not Applicable