

NCS- ECONOMICS PROGRAM PRACTICES

Questions 1A, 1B - Communication with Potential Doctoral Students

Questions 2A, 2B – Admission

Questions 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D – Orientation and Advisement

Questions 4A, 4B – Social Interactions

Questions		Answers
1A	When potential graduate students contact your department for information, who handles the inquiries? (Please provide the title rather than names)	The Director of Graduate Programs or Assistant Director of Graduate Programs handles inquiries from potential students.
1B	What type of information is usually sent in response to such inquiries?	We generally respond to potential students with an individualized email addressing their specific questions. We direct the potential student to our graduate program website for additional information. We very rarely send hard-copy information via snail mail.
2A	Who in your department makes the decision about which applicants to admit (or to recommend for admission)? (Please provide the title rather than names).	Our department has an admissions committee comprised of the Director of Graduate Programs and two additional faculty members. Each member of the committee comments on the application and makes a recommendation of admission. The final decision lies with the Director of Graduate Programs.
2B	What criteria are used in making this decision?	We consider GPA (overall, last two years and major), undergraduate course selection, GRE scores, personal statement, and reference letters. Potential students sometimes choose to visit the department. If this visit takes place prior to an admission decision, we also consider any information gained during personal meetings with the student.
3A	How does your department orient new students to graduate study?	We hold a New Graduate Student Orientation meeting to discuss points of interest and answer any questions the new students may have.
3B	Who handles initial course advisement for new doctoral students, and how is that person selected?	The Director of Graduate Programs or the Assistant Director of Graduate Programs handles course advisement

3C	Describe the process by which a student selects or is assigned a dissertation chair.	Students select their dissertation chair on their own. We advise students to familiarize themselves with the faculty's research interests and to begin to form relationships with their professors as early as possible to facilitate the choosing of a chair
3D	Can students in your department change dissertation chairs? If so, how is that change accomplished?	Students can change dissertation chairs (and other committee members) after the Graduate School has officially recorded their committee. Students must justify their desire to change the committee (sometimes through Grievance Procedures, depending on the situation), fill out appropriate Graduate School paperwork to make the change and attain permission from the Director of Graduate Programs as well as signatures of the outgoing and incoming faculty member.
4A	Other than formal coursework, does your department offer, sponsor, or support activities designed to foster social support and/or collaborative learning among doctoral students? (E.g., study groups, student organizations, student-student mentoring programs) If so, please describe.	Our program has an Economics Graduate Student Association (EGSA) that plans social and cooperative learning events, such as brown bag seminars. This is a completely student led organization, but it is supported by the program. The department offers preparatory meetings and exercises for new job market candidates. We also offer training and prep meetings for TA's and instructors. These activities are designed to benefit both new TA's and instructors and those with more experience.
4B	Does your department hold regular social activities in which students can interact informally with faculty members and other students? If so, please describe	No