The objective of the Ph.D. program in Economics at the Darla Moore School of Business is to prepare our students for careers as research economists in academic, government and private settings. Our graduate program offerings are keyed to our highly ranked specialties, and offer a very attractive opportunity for high-quality students who seek to make noteworthy contributions to these fields of study.

Our Program

In “A Guide to Graduate Study in Economics: Ranking Economics Departments by Fields of Expertise,” the Economics Department in the Moore School is ranked 16th in labor economics among all economics departments with graduate programs (Grijalva and Nowell, 2008). Our next highest rankings were 48th in health, education and welfare, and 58th in international economics (Grijalva and Nowell, 2008).

Ph.D. students take two full years of coursework. These include 18 hours of core coursework in microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory and econometrics.

In addition, students complete a total of six field courses, tailored to their interests and faculty expertise. Students recently have taken field courses in applied microeconomics (industrial organization, human capital and labor, and experimental) and field courses in international economics and development. With approval, up to two field courses may be taken outside the department.

Teaching is an important component of an economics education, and our students are given the opportunity to teach one or two courses per academic year after the first year of study.

Recent Awards and Placement Of Graduates

Erica Morgan, Ph.D. ’09, was awarded a Dissertation Enhancement Grant by the National Science Foundation.

Pattama L. Shimpalee, Ph.D. ’04, won the 2006 Outstanding Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences at the University of South Carolina and was also honored for the Best Dissertation in Economics by the Office of the National Research Council of Thailand.

Our most recent graduate placements include Bristol University (UK), Ernst and Young, Francis Marion University, University of Georgia, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

www.moore.sc.edu/phd.economics
Our Faculty

The Economics Department currently has 16 tenure track faculty. In general, we are an active research group with a continuing stream of publications in high quality economics journals.

McKinley Blackburn, Professor: Labor economics, applied econometrics, economic demography
Janice Boucher Breuer, Professor: International economics, econometrics, price and wage determination
Stephen R. Finger, Assistant Professor: Industrial organization, economics of innovation, applied microeconomics
William R. Hauk, Jr., Assistant Professor: International trade, political economics, economic growth, applied econometrics
Andrew Hill, Assistant Professor: Empirical economics, economics of education, labor economics
Christian Jensen, Associate Professor: Macro and monetary economics, dynamic policy issues
Daniel Jones, Assistant Professor: Public economics, labor economics, experimental economics
Alexander Matros, Associate Professor: Evolutionary economics, experimental economics, game theory, contests, industrial organization

John McDermott, Professor: International economics, growth theory
Melayne Morgan McInnes, Associate Professor: Economics of health care industry, medical malpractice, economic burden of smoking and obesity, experimental economics, economics of insurance
Chun-Hui Miao, Associate Professor: Industrial organization, corporate finance, behavior economics
Orgul Demet Ozturk, Associate Professor: Labor economics, public economics, applied microeconomics
Tamara Lynn Shezdon, Assistant Professor: Environmental economics, resource economics
Doug Woodward, Professor: Regional economics, international economics
Crystal Zhan, Assistant Professor: Labor economics, public economics, applied economics

Costs And Stipends

Ph.D. students receive a competitive stipend, a 100 percent tuition supplement, and a 100 percent medical insurance subsidy.

Contact Information

Students make a large commitment when they enter a doctoral program. It is important that you make a fully informed decision. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Dr. Orgul Ozturk
Ph.D. Coordinator in Economics
odozturk@moore.sc.edu

Columbia, S.C.

Columbia offers a desirable quality of life, with diverse cultural and recreational opportunities and a low cost of living. The state capital, Columbia is two hours from some of the U.S.'s best beaches and two hours from the mountains. The Columbia area has ample affordable housing near campus and in nearby communities. The climate is warm in the summer and mild in the winter, with distinct seasonal changes. Most outdoor activities can be pursued year-round. Students who have children have found Columbia to be a very welcoming and nurturing location.