
Graduate Connection

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This is the third year of the Department of Economics' newsletter for graduate students. The newsletter will be published three times a year on approximately September 1, December 1, and March 1. It contains information and notices about activities in the department of interest to graduate students. It also serves as a formal notification of events, application deadlines, and course offerings.

From the Department Chair . . .

Welcome to our first-year grad students!

Welcome to the Department of Economics and to Evanston. We hope that your years with us are productive and fulfilling. Please take the opportunity to mix with other graduate students and the faculty. A good way of doing this is at the TGIF held in the seminar room (Andersen 132) every Friday at 5 PM.

Mercedes Thomas

I am very pleased to announce that Mercedes Thomas has agreed to serve as Graduate Secretary for the next twelve months. Mercedes has done yeoman work for the Department during the past few years filling in for Yolanda Wales and Delilah Grey, and I am glad she has accepted an more permanent arrangement with us.

Recent honors

I would like to congratulate **Ron Brautigam** on his award of the Charles Deering McCormick Professorship of Teaching Excellence. This is one for four presented university wide and is for a three year term. **Robert Gordon** and **Rob Porter** have been named fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Becky Blank has been nominated by President Clinton to the Council of Economic Advisors, and will be going to Washington for two years.

Joe Altonji has assumed the acting directorship of the Institute for Policy Research for the 1997-98 academic year.

Scott Zacher has been awarded a commendation for exceptional service by the University, in part because of the excellent support he provided the Junior Recruiting Committee last winter. Word-Processing coordinator **Paula Nielsen** has been presented a gold pin in recognition of ten years of service to the University and the Department.

I would also like to congratulate **Kevin Hasker** on his Alfred P. Sloan Foundation dissertation award for 1997-98.

Faculty changes

The Department is pleased to welcome four new permanent faculty. At the senior level we welcome **Charles "Chuck" Manski** an econometrician from the University of Wisconsin. He will be in room 307 (phone 1-8223). **Michael Whinston**, who specializes in industrial organization joins us from the faculty at Harvard University. He will be in room 220 (1-8260).

We have two new assistant professors. **Paula Ramada**, a theorist with a Ph.D. from MIT is in room 211 (1-8224). Paula is originally from Portugal. **Gadi Barlevy** is a macroeconomist with his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He will be in room 304 (1-5395).

We also have a number of visitors. **Rick Flyer** from NYU, and **Ahmad Seifi** continue with us until the end of the fall quarter. The wife and husband team of **Agar Brugliavini** and **Guglielmo Weber** from the Universities of Venice and Padua in Italy respectively will be with us for the next academic year. Agar specializes in pensions and taxation, while Guglielmo works on consumer and household behavior. They will be in rooms 209 (1-2532) and 310 (1-8233) respectively. We welcome back former graduate student and award-winning teacher **Eric Schulz** on a sabbatical from his appointment at Williams College to teach our undergraduates. Eric is a macroeconomist, and will be in room 206 (1-2535). From closer to home, historian **Anne Hanley** will be teaching some history courses. She will be using Alan Taylor's office (311, 1-8234).

Some of our 1996-97 visitors have returned home. **Lars Hansen** and **Tom Sargent** have returned to the South Side,

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and **Dan Barbezat** returned to Amherst College.

Our best wishes go to **Steve Matthews**, **Becky Stein** and their young family on their move to a new life in Philadelphia. **Wolfgang Pesendorfer** has also departed for Princeton University.

People on the move this summer include **Larry Christiano** who has now moved into room 202, **Joe Ferrie** who has moved to room 318 and **Jeff Ely** who has moved to Leverone 379 in the Math Center. All retain their existing phone numbers.

Faculty leaves

In addition to Becky Blank's leave of absence in Washington, **Alan Taylor** will be on leave in 1997-98 at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University. **Alberto Trejos** has fallen foul of the INS and he and his family will be spending the next year or so in Costa Rica. I am sure we will all think of some excuse to go and visit him. **Chris Udry** and family return from their year in Africa this October.

Building addition

Many of you may have heard rumors about an extension to the space occupied by the Department. Plans are at a very early stage at this point. While the university has committed to provide an extra 3,000 square feet to the 13,500 square feet that we have at the moment, it is not clear where this space will be. Part of the uncertainty is that Kellogg has yet to decide whether, and in what quantities, to build additional space concurrently with our expansion. Architectural schemes include adding a sixth floor to Andersen Hall, or adding a second (and possibly third) floor above the area that contains our main office and seminar room. I will keep you informed as more details become known.

New and renewed faculty research grants

A large number of Northwestern faculty members are supported by research grants. Continuing grants with expiration dates subsequent to September, 1997, include the following (given in parentheses are the funding source and a brief summary of the topic).

Joseph Altonji and **Rebecca Blank** (Sage Foundation, Race and Gender in the Labor Market)

Rebecca Blank (NSF, Analysis of Changing patterns in Public Assistance Use)

Ronald Braeutigam and **John Panzar** (Mellon Foundation, Economic Issues in the Dissemination of Scholarly Learning)

Eddie Dekel (NSF, Endogenous Rates of Experimentation: Dynamics in Non-Partition Information Models)

Joe Ferrie (NSF, Immigrant and Native mobility in Historical Perspective)

Rosa Matzkin (NSF, Nonparametric Methods for Economic Models)

Bruce Meyer (NSF, Economics of Social Insurance)

Dale Mortensen (NSF, Recursive Competitive Search Equilibrium)

John Panzar (Ameritech Foundation, Consortium for Research on Telecommunications Policy)

Ian Savage (U.S. Dept of Transportation, Economics of Transportation Safety Regulation)

Chris Taber (NSF, Effects of Catholic Schools and Single-Sex Education)

Alan Taylor (NSF, Argentina and the Great Depression)

Alberto Trejos (NSF, Monetary Search theory, International Currencies and Strategic Considerations about Monetary Integration)

Christopher Udry (NSF, Agricultural Innovation and Resource Management in Ghana)

Burton Weisbrod (Mellon Foundation, Growing Commercialism of Nonprofit Organizations)

Asher Wolinsky (NSF, Organization of Firms and Markets)

TGIF storage

We appreciate the efforts that our graduate students put into making the TGIFs so successful each week. However, we have a problem in that storage of drinks and coolers in the TA room has become unsightly, and because it is inappropriate that alcoholic beverages be stored in open view in a room used for the instruction of minors. We are currently working with the TGIF organizer to obtain a lockable cabinet for the TA room to keep these supplies in. Until the cabinet is delivered please keep all TGIF materials in a carrel room. After it is delivered, we would like the weekly organizers to make a point of putting away and securing any surplus drinks.

Events . . .

Teaching assistant training

A one-morning program held on Wednesday, September 17 for the training of new Teaching Assistants. This is organized by the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence. All TAs who will be teaching for the first time in 1997-98, or missed last year's program, are required to attend. The training will last from 8:30AM to 12:30PM. The program starts in University Hall 118. You will then attend a specialized session for economics TAs led by Matt Magura, a multiple winner of our Distinguished TA award.

Orientation for second year students

Second year students are invited to attend a session on Friday September 19 at 1PM in the seminar room (132 AAH). Presentations will be made by the Director of Graduate Studies on the requirements for the Ph.D. degree, funding mechanisms, and the E01 seminar. Short presentations will then be made by faculty describing the field course choices available in the Department and within KGSM.

Start-of-year reception

Faculty, staff, graduate students, and their families are all invited to the start of year buffet and reception that will be held in the Andersen Hall atrium at 7:00PM on October 1.

This reception will also feature the awarding of the Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards for 1996-97. The winners will receive a certificate and a year's subscription to *Econometrica*.

Orientation for students on the job market

Ian Domowitz, Director of Graduate Placement, will be holding an orientation session for students who are going on the job market on Wednesday October 1 at 5PM in the Seminar Room (Andersen 132). For more details see the "From the Director of Graduate Placement" section below.

E01 Seminar . . .

The E01 seminar enters its second year, after a very successful debut last year. In

1997-98 it will be organized by John Panzar and Ron Braeutigam. The Department's requirements are:

- The Department has long had a requirement that graduate students: (a) write papers in each of two major fields; and (b) present them in an appropriate seminar.
- Starting with the entering class of 1995, completion of two papers and presentation of them in the E01 seminar will be required as a prerequisite for admission to doctoral candidacy. Admission to doctoral candidacy by July 31 at the end of your third year will guarantee - in normal circumstances - funding as a Teaching Assistant for all three quarters of your fourth year. Fourth-year students who have not been admitted to doctoral candidacy are ineligible for Teaching Assistantships.
- Appointment to a Teaching Assistantship in your third year will require you to (a) have passed all your preliminary examinations by the June sitting of your second year, and (b) completed at least one field paper which is certified as acceptable by a faculty member by July 31 at the end of your second year. While certification by a faculty member is required, presentation at the E01 is not. The presentation of the paper can be in the fall quarter of your third year.
- It is not intended that the Economic History requirement be affected in any way. You may only use your history paper to satisfy the above conditions if (a) history is one of your chosen major fields, or (b) a paper written using historical data is acceptable as a *bona fide* paper in another field.
- Faculty are expected to limit field course assignments to those which are expected to be completed during the quarter the course is offered. In addition to the usual examinations, homework assignments and "referee reports," it would be especially useful under the new system if faculty required students to prepare an "outline" or "prospectus" for a paper. Excepting the history requirement, it is intended that "incomplete" grades will not be given in field courses.

The E01 seminar is aimed primarily at third year students. All third year students must register for this seminar each quarter and attend the weekly seminar for all three

quarters. Second year students should also plan to attend in the spring quarter of their second year. In normal circumstances students will present one paper in the fall quarter of their third year and another later in the year. However, second year students who have made good progress on their first field paper can sign up to present the paper in the spring quarter of their second year.

Practical arrangements for the seminar are as follows:

- One, and sometimes, two seminars will be held each week. The normal meeting time will be on Thursdays from 5.00PM to 6.00PM. If a second seminar is necessary, it will be held on Wednesday from 5.00PM to 6.00PM. The seminar will be held in the Department seminar room (Andersen Hall 132).
- The sign up list will be placed in the Graduate Secretary's office prior to the start of each quarter.
- Please give the Main Office a copy of your paper a week before your seminar. They will arrange for copies to be made and distributed to students in the second and third years.
- It is your responsibility to arrange for the examination of your paper. You should approach the professor for whose class the paper was written to (a) evaluate the paper, and (b) attend the presentation. You will also need a second faculty member in the field to evaluate the paper and attend the seminar. You should provide both faculty members with copies of the paper at least one week in advance of your seminar. A form allows these faculty members to "sign off" that your paper is acceptable for the department's requirements for a major field. This form must be returned to the Graduate Secretary within two weeks of the date of your seminar.
- Presenters should be prepared to speak for forty minutes, and expect to receive questions.

Teaching Matters . . .

Course offerings 1997-98

The schedule for graduate courses for 1997-98 is shown on the last page of this newsletter. Because of Becky Blank's appointment in Washington, the

Economics D98 on Poverty and Public Policy scheduled for the fall has been cancelled.

Course descriptions - fall 97-98

Economics D12-1

Economics Theory and Methods
Professor Valimaki
MW 1-3

132 AAH

This course teaches the basic tools needed in game theory. In the first part of the course, we focus on particular solution concepts such as rationalizability, correlated equilibrium and some extensive form refinements including sequential equilibrium and the notion of forward induction. The second part of the course is devoted to an in depth analysis of repeated games. We will cover the case of perfect monitoring as well as imperfect monitoring. We will also talk about small incomplete information in the game with applications to reputation formation. Finally, concepts of renegotiation proofness are studied. The remainder of the course covers additional topics in game theory including examples of dynamic games.

Economics D15-1

Advanced Microeconomics
Professor Reiter
MW 9-11

372 LVR

The course will have new content this year. The new topics focus on the design of decentralized mechanisms. Systematic procedures for designing decentralized mechanisms that achieve specified goals will be presented and analyzed. New material will be presented in lectures, and where possible distributed in manuscript form to the class. The course will operate as much as is possible as a seminar.

Economics D16-1

Advanced Macroeconomics
Professor Christiano
MW 11-1

132 AAH

No description received.

Economics D20-2

European Economic History
Professor Mokyr
TTh 9-11

132 AAH

This course will sample the huge literature on the development of the

European economy, dealing primarily with the economic growth, technological progress, and population change. It will start off with the British Industrial Revolution as the starting point of modern economic growth, then deal briefly with a few of the more important continental countries (France, Germany, Russia) and their development in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It will then turn to population change and the "demographic revolution," with special emphasis on the micro-economic foundations of household behavior in the past. The course will be heavily reading-list intensive, with a large package of articles and chapters prepared in advance. There will be a test at the end of the first six weeks on the readings up to that point. To complete the course, students will write a research paper to be completed within a year of the end of the course.

Economics D50-1

Industrial Organization & Prices
Professor Whinston
TTh 11-1

132 AAH

The first quarter in the three quarter graduate industrial organization sequence. An introduction to industrial organization theory and empirical analysis. Topics include: monopoly pricing; price discrimination; oligopoly price and output; empirical studies of structure, pricing and profitability; entry and the dynamics of market structure; product selection; advertising; innovation and R&D. The emphasis will be on the theoretical analysis, empirical estimation, and testing of game theoretic models, and especially on recent developments in the field. Evaluation: Several problem sets and a final exam. Reading List: Selected readings, many in a course packet. The required text is *The Theory of Industrial Organization*, by Jean Tirole, MIT Press, 1988.

Economics D81-1

Econometrics
Professor Manski
TTh 1-3

132 AAH

This graduate field course in econometrics examines the distinct ways in which statistical and identification problems limit the conclusions that may be drawn in empirical economic research. The focus is on identification problems that arise in attempts to predict outcomes of interest, and on the reasoned use of structural econometric models to cope with

such problems. Our starting point is the modern theory of nonparametric regression under random sampling. From there we go on to study prediction when the available data are subject to common observational problems. Considerable attention is given to problems of censored outcomes and/or regressors that arise in survey research, in the analysis of treatment effects, and in the study of simultaneous equations. We then examine inferential problems arising when the data are generated by randomized experiments, response-based sampling processes, and sampling processes with measurement error. Prerequisite: Economics D80. Evaluation: problem sets and exams. Readings: selected articles. Text: C. Manski, *Identification Problems in the Social Sciences*, Harvard University Press, 1995.

Strategy D49-1

Competitive Strategy
Professor Spulber
MW 4-5:30

The course is the first quarter of the graduate strategy sequence. The course will introduce PhD. students to economic analysis of competitive strategy. The course will begin with a review of economic theories of the firm, including the neoclassical industrial organization, contractual, and organizational incentive theories of the firm. The course then will examine the consequences of a management strategy perspective for economic theories of the firm. The course will present economic models of pricing, product quality, entry, and diversification, with a view to examining the competitive strategies of firms. In addition, the course will examine market microstructure and the role of firms as intermediaries, using models of search, matching and asymmetric information.

MEDS D60-1

Foundations of Management Economics
Professor Myerson
Time & Place TBA

This is a course on the mathematics of optimization, with applications to economic theory. Topics include continuity and compactness, convex sets (separating hyperplane theorems and extreme point theorems), linear programming, applications of duality in economic theory, optimization of nonlinear functions (Kuhn-Tucker theorems and envelope theorems), fixed-point theorems,

and monotone decision rules in lattices. We will work through most of the material covered in the mathematical appendices in Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green's *Microeconomic Theory*. David Luenberger's *Linear and Nonlinear Programming* is also recommended as a reference for part of the course.

MEDS D65-1

Contract Theory and Mechanism Design
Professor Al-Najjar
Time & Place TBA

The course is divided into three equal parts. The first is moral hazard covering both static and dynamic models. The second is adverse selection and mechanism design. The third is incomplete contracts, transaction costs and the boundaries of the 'firm.' Evaluation will be based on a final examination, in-class presentation of a paper from the reading list, and a brief research proposal. Prerequisites are a knowledge of repeated games and games with incomplete information.

MEDS D66-1

Social Choice and Voting Models
Professor Myerson
Time & Place TBA

This is an introduction to social choice theory and formal political theory. Topics include: binary voting in committees (majority rule, binary agendas, top cycle, uncovered set, Banks set, and other tournament solutions); two-party competition (general tournaments, Euclidean policy space, supermajority voting with a status quo, costly voting, private information); aggregation of preferences with multiple options (independence of irrelevant alternatives and consistency, strategyproof voting systems, implementation by Nash equilibrium, scoring rules); multiparty competition in policy space (competition with a fixed number of parties, competition with entry); problems of misrepresentation (restraining political corruption, campaign contributions); multi-member councils and legislatures (power measures, strategic voting, and coalition formation in legislatures, committees in legislatures, PR formulas).

From the Director of Graduate Studies . . .

1997 fall prelim dates

The September examinations will be held:

Mon Sept 15	Macroeconomics
Tues Sept 16	Econometrics
Thur Sept 18	Microeconomics

Note the new ordering of the examinations. All examinations will be held 1pm - 4pm.

1998 spring prelim dates

The June examinations will be held:

Wed June 17	Macroeconomics
Wed June 24	Econometrics
Wed July 1	Microeconomics

All examinations will be held 1pm - 4pm.

1998 fall prelim dates

The September examinations will be held a week earlier starting next fall. In general they will be held the second week before fall classes start. It is our intention that results will be available so that financial aid decisions can be made prior to the start of the fall quarter:

Tues Sept 8	Macroeconomics
Wed Sept 9	Econometrics
Fri Sept 11	Microeconomics

All examinations will be held 1pm - 4pm.

Fall quarter TA course allocations

The forms that allow TAs to express preferences for duties should have been placed in your mailbox on September 2. Completed forms have to be returned by September 16. Unfortunately, the allocation can only be announced at 4 pm on Friday September 19 because we do not know enrollment in B01 and B02 until enrollment closes that afternoon. Classes start the following Monday.

TA periods in residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you must be in Evanston from the first Monday of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some

cases without informing the instructor they will be working for. The Department will no longer tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights so as to be able to fulfill your duties. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For 1997-98 the dates for which you must be in attendance are:

Fall:	Mon Sept 22 - Mon Dec 15
Winter:	Mon January 5 - Mon March 23
Spring:	Mon March 30 - Mon June 15

FAQs by entering students

FAQ1: *What courses should I register for?*

A1: You really have very little choice your first year. Unless you are EXTRAORDINARILY well prepared due to previous graduate work, you should plan on taking the three, three quarter core sequences D10, D11, and D80.

FAQ2: *How many courses must I take this year?*

A2: You must take 10 courses, in addition to D01, over the course of the academic year. That is, you must take a fourth course in at least one quarter.

FAQ3: *What can I take as my "extra" course?*

A3: You can take any course carrying graduate credit as your 4th course. Courses C-level and above generally carry graduate credit. It need not be an Economics course nor a graduate course. In fact, the Department strongly recommends taking undergraduate Real Analysis (Math C10-1) as a 4th course in the fall quarter, unless your math background is too weak or too strong. This is a matter to discuss with your Advisor.

FAQ4: *Can I take Math C10-1 Pass/Fail?*

A4: Yes! We recommend C10-1 to expose you to mathematical reasoning and gain a deeper understanding of what constitutes a rigorous "proof," not to fatten your GPA. While the grade you earn in Math C10-1 is not important per se, the Graduate School requires you to maintain a B average. If you're nervous about getting a C, take it P/F.

FAQ5: *Can I "place out" of one or more core courses?*

A5: Yes. You can skip any course whose material you feel you've already mastered. Just inform me, your Advisor, and the instructor, so we know what you're doing. However, bear in mind that you CANNOT "place out" of the associated

Prelim exams, which are based on the material covered in the core courses. For this reason, few students elect to skip any core courses.

FAQ6: *Can I take one or more Prelim exams this fall?*

A6: Yes. The prelim scheduled is listed above. If you have an especially strong background in one or more subjects and old exams (available from Graduate Secretary's office) look easy, consider taking one or more exams. Just sign up in the Office. Taking a prelim now does not count as an official "attempt."

FAQ7: *How do I apply for financial aid for my 2nd year?*

A7: The Department assumes that continuing students are interested in receiving financial aid for next year, so you do not need to formally "apply" for it, even if you are not receiving aid this year. Sometime this spring we will ask all continuing students to fill out a brief information form. However, foreign students from non English-speaking countries must pass the Test of Spoken English before the Graduate School will award a Teaching Assistantship, the most common form of 2nd year funding. TSE tests taken before July 1997 require a passing score of 45. Those taken in July 1997 and later require a score of 50.

Therefore, FOREIGN STUDENTS SHOULD SIGN UP FOR THE TSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NOW IS NOT TOO SOON! This is a rigid Graduate School requirement, beyond the Department's control.

FAQ8: *Is it possible to obtain financial aid for 1997-98 at this point?*

A8: Unfortunately, the Department has no additional financial aid it can award to entering students, not even a "tuition waiver." (Many departments at state universities have continuing access to such funds. We do not.) If you are entering the program without financial aid, you should not expect to receive any later this year. For your second year, however, you will be considered for aid based on the same standards of satisfactory progress as those currently receiving aid.

From the Graduate Secretary's Office . . .

I'd like to welcome all of the students, new and continuing, to the 1997-98 school year. I hold an open door policy to all of

the graduate students. If you should have any questions or need anything, please feel free to come and see me.

First year students

First-year students have already been given a locker (located in the hallway outside of the Seminar Room) to store their books and personal items. If you have not received an assignment, or, are not sure how to use the locks on the lockers please see me. You have also been assigned a Faculty Adviser, please make an appointment to talk with your adviser before you register for your Fall classes. These advisers are assigned to you according to the stated interest on your application form.

Important dates

September 29 submit your Application for Admission to Candidacy to the Graduate School to be granted a Master's Degree in December.

November 7 is the last day for return of the Application for a Degree for all candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

December 5 is the last day for submission of the COMPLETED dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School for students who expect to receive the Ph.D. degree in December.

December 12 is the last day for receipt of the Final Examination Report and any Change of Grade forms for D99 Projects or E90 Research to the Graduate School for Master's candidates who expect their degrees to be awarded in December.

Funding . . .

Teaching for Summer Session 1998

Application forms for teaching in the Summer Session 1998 will be circulated to all graduate students in the third year and above in early October. Appointments to these positions will be made by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Assistant Chair.

Appointment of lecturers for University College 1998-9 will be made in February 1998. Please note that appointments to these positions are made by the associate dean of University College and not by the department. After reviewing the forms and checking your CTEC records as a teaching assistant, she will invite a short list of candidates to attend an interview.

These positions provide valuable teaching experience for students with good teaching skills. They can provide a more certain form of funding for students in their fifth year, or those fourth year students who are not admitted to candidacy on time.

TAs and RAs to file a W2

In order to be paid as TAs or RAs, grad students have to go to payroll at 720 University Place and fill out a W2 form.

Notice to third years

TAships are only available to fourth year students who have been admitted to doctoral candidacy. If you have been admitted to candidacy by July 31, 1998 you will - in normal circumstances - be offered a TAship for all three quarters of 1998-99

If you are admitted to candidacy after July 31, 1998 then we cannot guarantee that TA funds will be available. In any event, a TAship will not be awarded for any quarter in which you have not been admitted to candidacy. This means, for example, that if you are admitted to candidacy in November 1998 funding will not be available for the fall quarter, and will only be available for the winter and spring quarters if there are any unallocated TAships remaining, and if the College of Arts and Sciences allows us to change our TA roster after September.

You should also remember that successful presentation of two papers in the E01 seminar is a prerequisite for admission to candidacy.

From the Director of Graduate Placement . . .

Last year was another successful year for student placement. Best wishes are offered to the following people as they start their professional careers:

Dan Arthur - The Brattle Group
 Maristella Botticini - Boston University
 Richard Chisik - University of Connecticut
 Paul Devereux - UCLA
 Sharon Harrison - Barnard
 Kanika Kapur - RAND Corporation
 Aaron Tam - Price Waterhouse
 Gautam Tripathi - University of Wisconsin, Madison

This year's job market

Ian Domowitz is director of graduate Placement. He will be holding an introductory meeting on Wednesday, October 1 at 5:00PM in Andersen 132 for students planning to be on the job market. Please note the following deadlines in preparation of materials for the job market.

October 3: A completed draft of students' job market papers should be in the hands of their Ph.D. committee members.

October 17: Students must have entered their vita on the standard template in the computer room (Andersen 313). Procedures will be distributed at the introductory meeting. Vitae will be collated and mailed to over 200 institutions by Paula Nielsen and Maryann Semer. The "vitae packet" will also be posted on the Department's World Wide Web site.

October 31: Students should prepare multiple copies of their paper for their packets. A photocopy account set to a maximum of 5,000 copies, which is the limit for which the Department will bear the cost, will be in operation for the calendar month of November. Individual code numbers can be obtained from the main office on or after November 1.

October 31: Submission of a diskette to Paula Nielsen containing a list of addresses for packet labels. The list must be approved by the student's advisor. The Department will process a maximum of 100 labels. The address labels will be put in your mailbox prior to November 7. Please prepare your list early. Requests for late additions to the list will not be given a high priority.

November 14: Students are responsible for "stuffing" their own packets with their vita and paper. A box containing the addressed stuffed envelopes must be delivered to the conference room (Andersen 204) on November 14.

November 26: The Department will hire temporary help to place reference letters in the packets in a confidential manner and mail the packets. The temporary help will be available November 17-26. Students will receive notification in their boxes when their completed packets have been mailed.

Notes . . .

Office accommodations for 1997/98

Allocations of office and carrel space for 1997-98 were announced in August. In general, people move into or change offices around Labor Day. Pareto-improving swaps are encouraged but please let Ian Savage know immediately since we would like to publish a directory of rooms and phone numbers by the start of the term.

E-mail addresses

The Department has replaced most paper memoranda by e-mail. A group mailing list for graduate students is <econgrads@nwu.edu>. To permit this mailing list to be updated, first-year students should get an e-mail account as soon as possible, change their address using the PH system to the abbreviated <yourname@nwu.edu> format, and inform Mercedes Thomas of the address. Please do so by September 19.

Photocopier

Please note that the office staff and work study students have priority access to the copy machine during regular business hours. It is suggested that during the first few weeks of each quarter that TAs do their copying for classes wherever possible after 5PM. Staff will be busy producing course packets. Please be nice and permit them to use their time efficiently.

Lounge

The Department is pleased that the Lounge in room 125 is so well used. However, please remember that your mother does not work here and therefore clear up after your lunch. Please also keep the newspapers and the weekly magazines tidy. These and the journals are for reading in the Lounge ONLY. Please do not take them elsewhere to read. You can make a copy just across the hallway. We would like to ask that you reshelve the journal issues when you have finished with them, and do so in the correct order. The current disorder looks untidy and makes it difficult for other readers.

Personal copy accounts

Graduate students can obtain a personal account on our copy machine. You will be billed at the end of each month at 5¢ a copy. To obtain an account please send an

e-mail to the Assistant Chair <ipsavage@nwu.edu> with your name and a 5-digit number to be used as your personal access code (the number must not start with a 0).

Web page

The department's web site contains directory information for faculty and staff, seminar listings, class information, and official documents on degree requirements. There are also links to information provided by the Graduate School, plus many interesting economics databases and sources. The URL is:
<http://www.econ.nwu.edu>

Graduation Rates

The department recently analyzed completion rates of students entering the department since 1985. The first table shows the percentage of each class making it to completion of preliminary examinations, candidacy, and completion (or Ph.D. expected).

Class	Prelims	Candidacy	Completion
1985	100%	73%	67%
1986	79%	68%	58%
1987	74%	47%	42%
1988	72%	56%	44%
1989	68%	68%	50%
1990	52%	44%	28%
1991	54%	49%	31%
1992	58%	52%	na
1993	75%	56%	na
1994	62%	na	na
1995	56%	na	na
Overall	65%	56%	43%

There were a number of people in the late 1980s who entered with the express intention of only obtaining a Master's degree. These people have been excluded from the above table. We also calculated the time to completion for students entering between 1985 and 1989. Completion is based on the date that the degree was awarded, which may be up to a year from the time that the student left Northwestern to take up a job. The mean is 5.94 years and the median is 6.0 years.

Duration	Number of Students
3 years	1
4 years	3
5 years	14
6 years	18
7 years	11
8 years	1
9 years	1
10 years	1

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 3, number 2 will be published on December 1.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

COURSE OFFERINGS 1997-98

		<u>FALL</u>	<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
D01	Mathematical Methods	Valimaki		
D10	Microeconomics	(-1) Panzar	(-2) Ramada	(-3) Whinston
D11	Macroeconomics	(-1) Gordon	(-2) Christiano	(-3) Eichenbaum
D12	Economic Theory & Methods	(-1) Valimaki	(-2) Ely	
D14	Economics of Information		(-1) Wolinsky	
D15	Advanced Microeconomics	(-1) Reiter	(-2) Reiter	
D16	Advanced Macroeconomics	(-1) Christiano	(-2) Barlevy	
D20-1	American Econ. History			Ferrie
D20-2	European Econ. History	Mokyr		
D25	Economic Development			(-1) Udry
D36	Public Finance			(-1) Meyer
D40	Econ. of the Labor Market			(-1) Taber
D50	Industrial Organization and Prices	(-1) Whinston	(-2) Porter	(-3) Rogerson
D60	International Economics		(-1) Matsuyama	(-2) Matsuyama
D80	Intro. to Econometrics	(-1) Matzkin	(-2) Domowitz	(-3) Meyer
D81	Econometrics	(-1) Manski	(-2) Conley	
D83	X-Sectional Methods		Manski	