

# Graduate Connection

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March 2023

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## News

### *Spring Quarter Start Date*

The first day of Spring Quarter is Tuesday, March 28. But on the first day, classes that normally meet on Mondays are held. The first TT classes are on the Thursday, and MW classes meet TW in the first week.

### *Faculty News*

Recruitment of both junior and senior tenure-line faculty is ongoing with several potential faculty members deciding whether to accept our offer. We have been successful in our search for a new teaching-track faculty member. **Jonas Jin** who is completing his PhD at Princeton University is joining us in September. He works in development and labor economics.

### *Visitors and Postdocs*

Seven of our existing visitors and postdocs are also here in the Spring Quarter: economic historian **Brian Beach** from Vanderbilt University, development economist **Sarah Deschênes**, development economist **Lakshmi Iyer** from the University of Notre Dame, econometrician **Lidia Kosenkova** from the University of Virginia, theorist **Romans Pancs** from ITAM in Mexico, economic historian **Lukas Rosenberger**, and theorist **Allen Vong** from the University of Macau.

Returning to joining us again this Spring is **Oren Levintal** from Reichman University in Israel. He is teaching an undergraduate course on the economic history of Israel. Also

here for the spring is alum **Nicolas Ziebarth**, an economic historian at Cornell University.

Short term visitors include applied microeconomist **Lihn Tô** from Boston University from April 7-12, economic historian **Kevin O'Rourke** from NYU Abu Dhabi for the week of April 24, and theorist **Leonie Baumann** from McGill University in the week of May 1.

### *Placement Report*

Professor **Alessandro Pavan**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that the market been tougher than in previous years. This is largely because of a contraction in the number of jobs in the tech industry but also because a few academic institutions had fewer positions available than in past years. The supply side of the market was also more competitive than in previous years, possibly because job candidates from certain institutions waited an extra year before going to the market in response to the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, all our candidates have received offers and either secured jobs already or are negotiating with the relevant employers.

While a few students are still finalizing their decisions, we are happy to report the following outcomes:

**Santiago Camara** - McGill University  
**Eilidh Geddes** - University of

Georgia

**Joao Guerreiro** - University of  
California Los Angeles

**Carl Hallmann** - International  
Monetary Fund

**Nicole Holz** – Walmart Inc.

**Jingxiong Tony Hu** - Warwick  
University, UK (Business School)

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Students who intend to be on the job market next year, or are curious about what it entails, are encouraged to attend an orientation on Friday May 12 (see in the "Events" section below).

### Eisner and Bies Awards

Each fall the Department awards:

- **Eisner Fellowship** covering stipend and tuition for three quarters to a student who has distinguished themselves in *both* teaching and research, and
- **Bies Prizes** offering a research account for the best public policy papers presented as part of the Economics 501 seminar.

The faculty nominate candidates for the Eisner Fellowship, and students can nominate themselves for the Bies Prizes. The nomination period runs from June 1 to August 15.

A committee, chaired by DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi** meets in late August, and the winners are announced by August 31 with the formal awards given out at the Fall Welcome Event. More on our [website](#).

### Bloomberg Terminal @ Library

The University Library has installed a Bloomberg Terminal for accessing financial data electronically. It seamlessly integrates real-time and historical information on about 5 million bonds, equities, commodities,

currencies and funds. It also comprises data on almost every publicly traded company and biographies of more than 1 million people. It has financial, political, and business news as well. Practical information is available at this [link](#).

## For Your Information

### Help and Support

We have collated together a listing of help and support resources, both within the department and within the university. It is in the [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) part of our website, and also in the *Graduate Student Handbook*.

### Graduate Student Opportunities Website

The Department has a website for graduate students with information on:

- Conferences
- Resources at NU
- Fellowships
- Programming at NU
- Events outside NU
- Counseling Services (CAPS)
- Job Opportunities

See the weekly update e-mail or visit:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/nuecon-grad-opportunities/home>

### Department Twitter Account

The department's Twitter can found at [@NUEconomics](#).

## Events

### Economic History Conference

The Center for Economic History in cooperation with the Global Poverty Research Lab hosts an international conference on the topic of The New Economic History of China on Friday and Saturday, March 24-25. More information at the [conference website](#).

### Visit Day

The in-person visit day for admitted prospective PhD students is on Wednesday March 29. You have already received an email from Lola Ittner looking for volunteers to speak as panel members, or as a participant in small group meetings. If you are willing, please contact her by March 8. There is a reception that night at the Allen Center which you are all encouraged to attend.

### Econometrics Conference

The Center for Econometrics is holding a one-day conference on Friday March 31 in KGH 4101. The conference features former NU econometrics students. Details at this [link](#).

### Rookiefest Events

There is a series of events in late April where a selection of doctoral students are invited to give their job market talks. Look for further announcements regarding Political Economics on Wed April 26, Economic History on Thurs April 27 [Development Econ on Fri April 28](#)

### Second- & Third-Year Town Hall Meetings

Mandatory meetings (unless you are holding a discussion section) for second and third year students are on Friday May 5. DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi**, and Associate Chair **Ian Savage** cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and good-progress milestones. They can also answer your questions.

The meetings are in KGH 3301. Second year students should attend from 11:00AM to 11:30AM, and third year students from 11:30AM to 12:00NOON.

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### Job Market Orientation

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year should attend an introductory meeting from 11:00AM to Noon on Friday May 12 in room 3301. Professor **Alessandro Pavan**, the Director of Graduate Placement, leads an orientation. Any student in the third year and beyond who is curious about the job market process is welcome.

### Graduate Student Teaching Conference

A required training session for all students expecting to be funded as a Teaching Assistant for the first time next year is held just prior to Fall Quarter. It is run by the Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching and lead by an Economics graduate student as workshop leader. It is an in-person event on Thursday September 14.

## Teaching

### Next Year's Course Schedule

We are working on the teaching schedule for next year. It will be posted on our website at the start of Spring Quarter.

### Maintaining Full-time Status

You must be registered for at least three course credits each quarter to be considered a full-time student.

First year students are automatically full time in Fall, Winter and Spring as they are registered for 410, 411 and 480.

For students in years 2 and 3 in Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters, if you are registered for two courses add 1 unit of Economics 590. If you are registered for one or zero courses add TGS 500. TGS 500 is listed for zero credits but assures fulltime status (and

allows registration in up to one course).

Students in years 4 and above should register for TGS 500 (or TGS 512 in certain circumstances) which is considered a full-time registration.

### Summer Registration

Students in all years should register for TGS 500 in summer quarter if they are funded.

### Incomplete Grades

The Department has a policy to avoid excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our [web site](#) for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

### This Quarter's Course Descriptions

**Note that in the first week, MW classes meet on TW, and TTh classes meet on Th only.**

### Advice on Field Sequences

The Department has guidance on [acceptable field course sequences](#). These are posted in the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals > Second- and Third-Year Goals section of our website.

### Department of Economics Classes

#### Economics 412-3

Economic Theory and Methods

Professor Pei

TTh 3:30-5:20

KGH 3301

An introduction to dynamic game models as well as their applications to political economy, macroeconomics, and industrial organization. Topics include repeated games, reputation effects, stochastic games, bargaining,

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social learning, and steady state learning.

Evaluation is based on an in-class presentation and/or a final project.

#### Economics 414-3

Economics of Information

Professor Golub

MW 5:00-6:20

KGH 1410

Economics of Networks. The course covers the main existing theories of economic interactions in networks, and some key applications of those theories. A unit on network games examines strategic spillovers, with applications ranging from collaboration in school to competition in complex oligopolies. A unit on learning covers both rational and behavioral models of information diffusion and aggregation. The course introduces and showcases the utility of an important toolkit of network statistics that has close connections to principal components and spectral graph theory.

Other theoretical topics include statistical and strategic models of network formation, public goods in networks, and a rich set of models of contagion. The course also discusses the very recent research literature, touching on topics such as segregation and inequality, the robustness and fragility of financial and macroeconomic networks, and optimal interventions in various applications. This fast-paced course, moving from basics to the research frontier, has been redesigned for this offering.

Books include Jackson *Social and Economic Networks* (Princeton U.P., 2008), Goyal *Networks: An Economics Approach* (MIT Press, 2023) and Easley and Kleinberg *Networks, Crowds, and Markets* (Cambridge U.P., 2010).

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### Economics 416-3

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Christiano

MW 9:00-10:50 KGH 1410

*First Class Wed. March 29. Puzzles in International Macro.* Until recently the Mundell-Fleming model dominated international macro. However, the dynamics of the world economy appear to be inconsistent with this model. So the conceptual framework used to think about international macro is evolving rapidly.

The course will describe this evolution in two ways. One is based on estimated impulse response functions of emerging market economies in response to a US monetary shock. This part of the course will apply 'high frequency' identification techniques for US monetary policy shocks, plus methods for identifying the response of a small open economy to a shock.

The second evolution looks to alternatives to assumptions of rational expectations. Learning is one important area of research which is evolving rapidly.

The course will consist primarily of lectures, but there will be some student presentations on relevant reading materials. Also, students will be expected to prepare a research proposal. The area of International Macro is rich with dissertation topics, particularly if you consider the intersection with learning.

### Economics 420-1

American Economics History

Professor Chabot

MW 6:30-8:20PM KGH 3301

This course introduces students to the use of economic theory and quantitative techniques to understand long-term factors in the development of the American economy. Topics include Institutional factors in economic development, migration and the evolution of labor markets, the development of banking and financial

markets, exchange rate regimes, and the study of business cycles and the Great Depression.

Evaluation is based on in-class presentations (20%), and a substantial research paper (75%).

### Economics 440-1

Labor Economics

Professor Jácome

MW 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

*Note change in time.* This class covers core topics in the field of labor economics and offers an overview of approaches for thinking about the determinants of income. The first few weeks focus on human capital investment, persistence of income across generations, and the importance of neighborhoods and local shocks. The second half of the course covers the economics of immigration, discrimination, and crime.

Classes consist of lectures in addition to class presentations and discussions. Evaluation is based on class participation, two practice referee reports, and a research paper proposal. The proposals are presented in the final two classes to gain feedback from peers.

### Economics 450-3

Industrial Organization

Professor Hendel

TTh 11:00-12:50 KGH 1410

The course has three parts. The first part covers empirical approaches to testing contract theories, including hidden information as well as incentive models. The second part deals with the estimation of dynamic models, estimation methods and their application to industrial organization. Finally, the course ventures into areas of recent interest, such as the increase in market concentration and its link to market power, the relation between concentration and innovation, and

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how to estimate market power, based on student interest.

### Economics 460-2

International Economics

Professor Matsuyama

MW 4:00-5:50 KGH 3301

This is a course in International Trade. The ultimate goal is to study various attempts to understand how interactions between countries, regions, and cities (mostly through trade in goods, but also through factor movements, and technology transfers/diffusions) affect their growth and structural transformation performances. To this end, it reviews some workhorse models of economic growth and structural transformation and those of international trade (possibly also economic geography, and regional/urban economics), that have been developed separately. Then, it looks at several recent attempts to integrate these models to understand their interactions.

Even though most existing studies heavily rely on the assumption of CES preferences/production functions to model both demand across sectors as well as demand across products within a sector. This assumption is, while tractable, highly restrictive. One exciting recent development in this area is to explore the role of non-CES to capture some new mechanisms. For this reason, about four lectures are spent on non-CES demand.

Depending on the size of the class, there are about 12 to 14 lectures followed by student presentations on some selected papers and possibly some guest lecturers.

Evaluation is based on class participation and class presentation.

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### Economics 481-3

Advanced Econometrics  
Professor Canay

TTh 1:30-3:20 KGH 3301

The course covers modern econometrics topics from a theoretical point of view but with lessons for practitioners. It is intended for both students interested in econometrics and students interested in applied microeconomics.

The first part covers local average treatment effects, marginal treatment effects, and Roy models. These are commonly used tools in applied micro. The second part covers double debias machine learning for treatment effects. The third part covers local asymptotic approximations, contiguity, and local asymptotic normality. The last topic may be RDD, DiD, inference with few clusters, or some other topic to be determined during the first day of class.

Evaluation is by a research proposal, a problem set, and a topic presentation. The books *Asymptotic Statistics* by van der Vaart (Cambridge U.P., 1998) and *Testing Statistical Hypotheses* by Lehmann and Romano (Springer, 2010) include many of the topics of the second and third parts.

### Economics 498-1

Advanced Topics  
Professor Reguant

TTh 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

*Energy Economics.* This course is focused on the analysis of energy markets using tools from Industrial Organization and Applied Microeconomics. The lectures are structured around reviewing papers on particular themes and replicating papers with interactive notebooks.

Topics include electricity markets (market power, entry, climate policy), energy efficiency, demand response, and the distributional implications of the energy transition. The tools covered include basic regressions, instrumental variables, structural

modeling of electricity markets, and machine learning applications to energy economics.

Evaluation is based on in-class presentations and a model-based policy evaluation project.

### Economics 498-2

Advanced Topics  
Professors Angeletos

Th 12:30-1:20 KGH 3301

Open to students presenting in the Macroeconomics Lunch Workshop during AY 2022-23. May not be counted as one of the nine field-sequence courses.

### Other Departments' Classes

See the Department's [field sequence rules](#) before registering for any of these classes.

### Finance 585-3

Asset Pricing  
Professor Andersen

MW 9:15-10:45 KGH 4302

An introduction to empirical asset pricing and the associated financial econometric techniques. Topics include return predictability, spurious regressions, GMM inference and testing, evidence on cross-sectional asset pricing, models for the equity risk premium dynamics, factor modeling, volatility measurement and forecasting via high-frequency data, return asymmetry, volatility and jump dynamics, option-implied risk measures, and the VIX (fear) index.

Evaluation is by several problem sets and a final exam or project. There are many relevant textbooks, including Cochrane *Asset Pricing* (Princeton U.P., 2009); Campbell, Lo and MacKinlay *The Econometrics of Financial Markets* (Princeton U.P., 1996); Hamilton *Time Series Analysis* (Princeton U.P., 1994); Campbell *Financial Decisions and Markets* (Princeton U.P., 2017); Ait-Sahalia

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and Jacod *High Frequency Financial Econometrics* (Princeton U.P., 2014).

### Finance 586-3

Corporate Finance  
Professor Milbradt

T 4:00-8:00PM KGH 4302

This course deals with corporate finance and financial frictions with some coverage of macro-finance models. The course is mainly about dynamic models, and will cover (1) dynamic optimal cash holdings, (2) dynamic principal-agent models, (3) adverse selection in a dynamic macro model, (4) dynamic models of corporate bankruptcies, (5) search frictions (directed and undirected), (6) dynamic intermediation models, (7) mortgage markets as mean-field games in which heterogeneity matters, and (8) if time allows some more recent advances on the border between finance and macroeconomics. The focus is on developing the tools for dynamic stochastic models of frictions.

### MECS 540-3

Political Economy: Social Choice and Voting Models  
Professor Egorov

T 9:00-12:00 KGH 4273

This course is about various aspects of collective decision-making, both on the micro level (how people aggregate of information and preferences through voting) and on the big picture level (how societies choose institutions to live under).

Initially some classical results from social choice are reviewed and limitations of the cooperative approach are highlighted. The course then analyzes strategic behavior in collective decision-making such as voting over agendas and legislative bargaining. The next topic deals with elections and decisions on whether and how to vote, whether to run, and how to campaign. The course then

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considers institutions including revolutions and coup d'états, and how, when and why countries democratize. The final topic is models of forward-looking behavior in collective decision-making and dynamics of institutions.

Evaluation is based on a short research proposal on a topic related (broadly speaking) to what is covered in class, or a critical overview of a few articles on one of the topics covered.

### MECS 540-4

Political Economy: Topics in Development Economics

Professors Morjaria, Qian and Teso  
W 12:30-3:30 KGH 5301

This course focuses on understanding the relationship between economic development and endemic features such as institutions, market structure, and cultural norms. How and why are institutions, the market or firms in developing nations different from rich ones? What are the consequences of these differences on economic development? One of the main challenges in making progress in this broad agenda is that the features of interest – e.g., democratic institutions -- usually appear in bundles. In this class, students are introduced to studies that attempt to unpack various factors with theory-guided rigorous empirical analysis. The course familiarizes students with the frontier of the literature, the questions being asked, the methods most prevalently used, and the evidence thus far. Some examples of topics covered include corruption, foreign aid, conflict, famines democratic institutions, social trust, contract enforcement and resource misallocation. The class focuses on empirical methods and how to use theoretical frameworks to guide the empirical findings. It covers developing economies in current and historical contexts. The ultimate goal of this course is to help students transition into the research phase of their career and to help students

formulate interesting, relevant and feasible research topics. This course requires reading many papers and the pedagogy emphasizes in-depth discussion and presentation.

### MECS 560-3

Research in Economics

Various faculty

This is a Kellogg first-year course and is not appropriate as an Economics field course.

### MECS 570-2

Economics of Organizations:  
Organizational Dynamics

Professor Barron

TTh 9:00-10:30 KGH 4302

This course can be taken independently of MECS 570-1. The class focuses on recent topics in organizational economics including organizational dynamics, productivity dispersion, management practices, and non-firm organizations. Content includes mostly theoretical and some empirical work.

Lectures emphasize open questions and development of independent research projects. Specific topics include dynamic inefficiencies in organizations, with applications to incentive contracts, communication, delegation, and learning; evidence on the causes and consequences of productivity dispersion; the interaction between firms and financial markets; the role of management; and the role of institutions.

Evaluation is based on a research presentation at the end of the quarter. There is no required textbook, though *The Handbook of Organizational Economics* (edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, Princeton U.P., 2013) is a valuable reference text.

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### Economics 501 Seminar

This Spring the seminar is run by Professor Pavan. The seminar is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11AM to 11:50AM, and on Friday from 2PM to 2:50PM. The schedule based on the random order announced 12-months ago, is:

Wk	M 11-12	W 11-12	F 2-3
27-Mar	Ruzzante*	Visit Day	Pizzimenti
3-Apr	Mosillo	Di Tommaso	Huang
10-Apr	Jordanovski	Sims	Nunes Fava
17-Apr	Fluegel	No class	Sardon
24-Apr	Okumura	Ferrara	No Class
1-May	Higueras Corona	Ohi	Pisauro
8-May	Berrutti Rampa	Iakovlev	Crippa
15-May	Fedchenko	Fu	Chopra
22-May	Jaramillo Rojas	Ramakrishnan	Bainwala
29-May	Memorial Day	No class	Poblete Coddou

\* Class is on Tuesday March 28

Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible but should be coordinated with Professor Pavan.

### Administrative Requirements

Full practical details are on our [web site](#). Note that:

1. Students must register for Econ 501 P/N in the Fall and Spring of their third year. Two pass grades are necessary to meet the Department's research paper requirement.
2. The signed [approval form](#) must be returned to the Graduate Program Manager within two weeks of the presentation or by the Friday of exam week, whichever is earlier. At least one of the faculty signing must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department.
3. A "pass grade" is issued based on the signed approval form and satisfactory attendance (see below).

### Attendance Policy

Economics 501 is designed to be an interaction between the presenter and peer students. It is mandatory that all third-year students attend every Economics 501 seminar. However, things do come up, so we have formalized how we treat excessive absence. "Excessive absence results in an "N" grade being assigned for the Spring Quarter registration. Excessive absence is defined as being absent from more than 10% of the combined number of sessions in the Fall and Spring Quarters. (For example, we expect 52 sessions this academic year, so absence from six or more sessions is considered excessive absence.) A student is considered absent irrespective of the reason or whether the instructor had been notified in advance. A student assigned an "N" grade for this reason can have the grade changed to a "P" by attending in the following Fall Quarter three sessions for each absence above 10%. (For example, a student missing seven sessions in a year with 52 sessions has to make up nine sessions, calculated as  $3 \times (7-5)=6$ .)"

### Second Year Students

Second year students should start to work on their first 501 paper which must be submitted for faculty approval by July 31. This paper is then presented in the Fall. The second paper is presented next Spring.

Note that students in the Financial Economics PhD may be asked to present their first paper earlier and in a different forum.

The presentation order for 501 papers is determined by a random number generator and is conducted independently for the Fall and Spring. Here is the order for next year. The actual assignment of people to dates and times will be announced in the September and March Graduate Connection:

### Fall Quarter

Takatsuji, Eisho  
Xie, Zhen  
Sousa, Rui  
Jorquera, Miguel  
Seida, Timothy  
Rajan, Aastha  
Rashid, Myera  
Wolf, Aaron  
Pienkny, Max  
Tran, Thu  
Kreps, Aver  
Obradovic, Jana  
Zhang, Yutong  
Livingston, Brian  
Di Giovan Paolo, Andrea  
Bonomo, Tessa  
Majic, Evan  
Rayl, Johanna  
Sagawa, Takaaki  
Fisher, Tom  
Sanchez, Pablo  
Zhang, Dalton  
Marcolin, Giacomo  
Saxena, Mansa  
Williamson, Chase

### Spring Quarter

Sagawa, Takaaki  
Jorquera, Miguel  
Williamson, Chase  
Sousa, Rui  
Sanchez, Pablo  
Rajan, Aastha  
Marcolin, Giacomo  
Pienkny, Max  
Zhang, Dalton  
Rashid, Myera  
Zhang, Yutong  
Wolf, Aaron  
Rayl, Johanna  
Kreps, Aver  
Di Giovan Paolo, Andrea  
Tran, Thu  
Seida, Timothy  
Xie, Zhen  
Obradovic, Jana  
Bonomo, Tessa  
Takatsuji, Eisho  
Saxena, Mansa  
Majic, Evan  
Livingston, Brian

Second year students may wish to attend some of this spring's seminars

to get some idea of expectations for 501 papers.

### 2023-24 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Tues** Sept 19 - Fri Dec 8

Winter: **Wed** Jan 3 - Fri March 15

Spring: **Tues** March 26 - Fri June 7

### Formal Announcements

#### Summer Funding

Students in years 1 through 5 can apply for Summer University Fellowships (SUF) in early May. Students in years six and above are not eligible for summer funding.

Look for an e-mail on May 1 with more details and a link to the online form. The small print is that:

- Students must be in good standing (i.e., have been eligible for academic year funding),
- Not receiving outside funding or RAships that cover their summer stipend,
- Limit other paid work over the summer to 120 hours, and
- Not take more than three weeks of "vacation" or non-research time.

#### Continuation Rule for Older Students

These rules are departmental rules or are stricter than that TGS milestones. As such they are not extended by the TGS COVID-19 deadline extension policy for students in the class of 2019 and earlier. See the [Departmental policy on individual extensions](#).

**Candidacy:** All qualifying examinations, defined as achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in each core area, must be completed by the end of the Spring Quarter of the second year of study. There is no additional

remediation period associated with this milestone.

**Dissertation Prospectus:** Students must complete the taught courses and have their prospectus approved no later than the end of the Fall Quarter in their fourth year of study. Any student not meeting this milestone is placed on probation. A student then has at most two quarters, which is the say the end of the Spring Quarter in their fourth year, to resume satisfactory academic standing.

**Good Progress on Dissertation:** Students in their fifth year and above (students entering either sixth or higher year) must be certified as making “good progress” on their dissertation by July 31 at the end of each year. Any student not meeting this milestone is placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the following Winter Quarter, is excluded from the program and Northwestern University.

### *Annual Progress Review and Funding Eligibility*

TGS requires that students receive annual feedback on their progress. In Economics this is done (for students currently in years two and above) by meeting with a faculty member and obtaining their signature certifying that you have met specific milestones. This signed form also acts to indicate eligibility for funding in the coming year. The forms can be signed electronically.

In late May, an e-mail will explain the specific requirements for your year. In general, the cutoff date for meeting the deadline for the signature is July 31. However, the cutoff date for third years (for their prospectus) is August 31.

In summary the milestones for good progress are:

**Current First Years:** Your course grades are your measure of good progress. No signed forms are needed. After Spring grades are filed, students receive a letter indicating their candidacy status. Students should also note that most second years are funded as Teaching Assistants and to do so they must meet the [TGS language requirement](#).

**Current Second Years:** Reviewed their progress in their field courses with a faculty member and had a draft 501 paper approved.

**Current Third Years:** Dissertation prospectus defended by August 31, and the completing of course work and two 501 papers.

**Current Fourth Years:** Certification by your committee chair of a paper of suitable quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation. The committee chair can also indicate whether you are expected to be on the job market.

**Current Fifth Years and above:** Unless you are graduating this summer, certification by your dissertation committee chair that you are making good progress and whether you will be on the job market.

More details on the nature of funding for each year can be found on our [website](#). You will be sent the link to the form that needs to be signed, and they are also posted on our [website](#).

### *Dissertation Prospectus*

Third year students should have been thinking about preparing for forming a dissertation committee and preparing a dissertation prospectus.

We have posted information on the administrative procedures on our web page in the section on [goals for second- and third-year students](#). The prospectus must be completed by August 31 to signify good progress and guarantee fourth year funding.

Note the rules on committee composition. All dissertation committee chairs must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department or have a voted courtesy appointment in the Economics Department. If the committee chair holds a courtesy appointment, at least one other member of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department. Exceptions to these conditions are only permissible with prior written approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

### *TA Periods in Residence*

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be available on weekdays starting on the first day of classes and continuing until the Monday after examinations end (the day that grades are filed).

Absences during this period require permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department does not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights to be able to fulfill your duties. This is especially true as you make travel arrangements for the coming spring break. Failure to do so is grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the rest of this year the dates for which you should be in attendance are:

Winter: until Mon March 20

Spring: Tues March 28 - Mon June 12

### *Attention Next Year's TAs*

If you expect to be a TA next fall you need to be aware of the following arrangements:

The [online TA Preference Form](#) is posted about August 18. Allocations are made about September 1.

New TA Training is held in-person on Thursday September 14. If you believe that you will be serving as a TA for the first time next year,

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please arrange your schedule so that you are available in Evanston on this date.

**First day of class** is Tuesday September 19. You need to be physically present in Evanston by this date to conduct TA duties.

**Next Holiday Season** All TAs must be in Evanston until Monday lunchtime on December 11 to complete grading duties. If you are making holiday travel arrangements, please ensure that you are still in Evanston until this date. In addition, you need to be back in Evanston by Tuesday night, January 2 for the start of winter classes the following day.

### TA Duties in Other Departments

Our policy is that any other Departments that wish to hire an Economics student as a Teaching Assistant must discuss this with us, and not approach students directly.

We need to ensure that our faculty teaching for this Department or MMSS receive priority.

It is inappropriate for graduate students to conduct private arrangements to TA for faculty in other departments. If you are approached in this way, direct the faculty member to contact our Associate Chair.

### Ongoing TA Training

Interested in training as a TA beyond the introductory new TA conference? The Searle Center holds a series of workshops to help you improve your teaching, and how to deal with issues in the classroom. You can find the schedule at the Searle Center's website under the [Initiatives > Grads and Postdocs > Workshops tab](#).

### Carrel Office Allocations for Fall

In August, an on-line process allows older graduate students to re-optimize the carrel room they occupy, and current first year students to select

vacant carrels. Look for emails about this in August.

Students move to their new carrels in the period between Labor Day and the start of Fall Quarter classes.

### Graduating Students

If you are leaving us this summer, look for an e-mail later next quarter with information on returning keys and providing us with forwarding and contact information.

### Graduate School Deadlines

Deadlines for students wishing to receive a MA or PhD degree in June: The deadline for the Application for a Degree has already passed

**May 5:** Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.

**May 12:** Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

And for students graduating in early September:

**July 7:** Application for a Degree.

**August 4:** Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.

**August 18:** Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

### Commencement Arrangements

**Saturday June 10, 2PM to 4PM in Ryan Fieldhouse.** The Graduate School "hooding ceremony." At this event, your advisor presents you with your degree. If you are expecting to graduate this June, now is the time to ensure that your advisor is available and willing to attend. If they are unavailable, then you should ask for one of your other committee members to substitute.

**Monday June 12 at 9:00AM at Ryan Field.** The main Commencement ceremonies.

Late in April students expecting to graduate in June receive information

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about ordering academic costume and other information such as Commencement ticket information.

### Students Working on NSF Grants

The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires all students supported by them to undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This is done by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and an in-person or virtual component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3-hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS Professor **Marciano Siniscalchi** leads the in-person part of the class.

## Funding Opportunities

### Funding for Research-Related Travel and Expenses

TGS has available funds to pay for research expenses and for travel to conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000. There is funding for two conferences during your time at Northwestern that covers up to a maximum of \$800 for each conference. Full details of the application procedures and links to application forms are on the [funding web page](#).

One of the necessary conditions for obtaining TGS conference support is the commitment of the department to contribute \$200 in matching funds to the expenses if a student's application is successful. The Department contributes \$100 from the Eisner account and requires that the other \$100 is covered by the student's advisor.

### *Overseas Travel*

If you are traveling internationally on professional business, the NU Office of Global Safety and Security (OGSS) asks you to [register your itinerary](#). This allows practical assistance in an emergency. The website also has informational on international health insurance coverage.

### **Notes**

#### *Next Graduate Connection*

Volume 29, number 1 will be published after Labor Day about Sept. 5.