

**Harris Ph.D.
First and Second Year Coursework Requirements
2023-2024**

All students beginning the doctoral program, who have not completed prior graduate coursework relevant to public policy studies, must complete a minimum of 8 courses in the first year and 6 courses in the second year, all for quality grades.

Each Ph.D. student will choose from a list of Areas of Focus (AOFs). These areas play several roles in structuring the curriculum, all of which are designed to better guide students through their preparation for the various job markets. First, each AOF will determine two of the eight first-year courses. Second, each AOF will determine the form of and preparation for the second-year field requirements. The current set of AOFs is as follows:

1. [Economic and Social Policy](#)
2. [Energy and Environment](#)
3. [Health Policy](#)
4. [International Policy and Development](#)

Petitions to waive

Those who enter with a master's degree and wish to reduce the number of required courses need to submit a written petition to the Director of Graduate Studies no later than the end of their first quarter in residence. Having earned prior master's degree in a relevant field does not automatically entitle a student to waive part of the course requirements of the Harris School.

Petitions to waive courses in the Harris School's Ph.D. program must be first presented to the Program Director for approval. This petition must indicate the courses to be waived, and include documentation of how the material in the prior master's program meets the doctoral training requirements of the Ph.D. program in terms of both the breadth of the material covered in the courses being replaced, the depth of the material covered (theory, methods, or substantive material), and a demonstration that the student has performed adequately for a Ph.D. student. If the Program Director approves of the content of the petition, it is then reviewed by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Grad Exchange Program

UChicagoGRAD manages three [Exchange programs](#), which allow eligible Ph.D. students to take advantage of faculty, classes, and research centers at partner institutions. For each Exchange program, participants must receive institutional approvals from both the home and host institutions. Harris students who wish to participate in a UChicagoGRAD Exchange program should first consult with their faculty advisor, and carefully review the eligibility requirements. UChicagoGRAD can only facilitate Exchanges that your academic advisor has already approved.



Economic and Social Policy

First Year Schedule (eight courses required, six core and two AOF):

Autumn	Winter	Spring
PPHA 42000: Applied Econometrics I	PPHA 42100: Applied Econometrics II	PPHA 42200: Applied Econometrics III
PPHA 44100: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I	PPHA 44200: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis II	AOF course
PPHA 41501: Game Theory	AOF course	Elective (optional)

First Year AOF Courses:

(select 2 courses)

- *PPHA 40700 Early Childhood: Human Capital Development and Public Policy*
- *PPHA 48403 Optimization-Conscious Econometrics*
- *ECON 31200 Empirical Analysis III*
- *Any PhD ECON course in the areas of labor, public finance, inequality, or behavioral economics.*

First Year GPA Requirement to waive comprehensive examination:

For students in this Area of Focus the first year GPA requirement is an average grade of B+ (3.3) across each of the following two sequences to automatically waive the comprehensive exam:

- *Applied Econometrics I, II, and III (PPHA 42000, 42100, 42200)*
- *Game Theory (PPHA 41501) and Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I and II (PPHA 44100, 44200)*

Students who do not meet the GPA requirements to automatically waive the comprehensive exam for one or more sequences will be required to take and pass a comprehensive exam covering the sequence(s) where the GPA was not met. The comprehensive exams are typically administered in the summer (August) after the first year and will be graded pass/fail.

Second Year Coursework (six courses for a quality grade):

- Field in either Labor Economics or Public Economics (subject to change annually)
 - [Department of Economics Graduate Program Guidebook \(updated annually\)](#) – Field definitions and requirements
 - Certification – GPA of 3.0



Energy & Environment

First Year Schedule (eight courses required, seven core):

Autumn	Winter	Spring
PPHA 42000: Applied Econometrics I	PPHA 42100: Applied Econometrics II	PPHA 42200: Applied Econometrics III
ECON 30100: Price Theory I (AOF course)	ECON 30200: Price Theory II (AOF course)	ECON 30300: Price Theory III (AOF course)
PPHA 44100: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I	Elective or PPHA 52501 (AOF course)	Elective or PPHA 52501 (AOF course)

First Year AOF Courses:

(the following four courses)

- *ECON 30100 Price Theory I (Fall)*
- *ECON 30200 Price Theory II (Winter)*
- *ECON 30300 Price Theory III (Spring)*
- *PPHA 52501 Energy and Environmental Policy Research Experience (Ind Resrch) (Winter or Spring, Pass/Fall basis)*

First Year GPA Requirement to waive comprehensive examination:

For students in this Area of Focus the first year GPA requirement is an average grade of B+ (3.3) across each of the following two sequences to automatically waive the comprehensive exam:

- *Applied Econometrics I, II, and III (PPHA 42000, 42100, 42200)*
- *(i) the maximal grade in Price Theory I (ECON 30100) and Microeconomics (PPHA 44100), (ii) the grade in Price Theory 2 ECON 32100, and (iii) the grade in Price Theory 3 (ECON 30300)*

Students who do not meet the GPA requirements to automatically waive the comprehensive exam for one or more sequences will be required to take and pass a comprehensive exam covering the sequence(s) where the GPA was not met. The comprehensive exams are typically administered in the summer (August) after the first year and will be graded pass/fail. The Price Theory comprehensive exam is administered by the ECON department and requires registration.

Second Year Coursework (six courses for a quality grade):

- Field in Energy and Environment (defined by Econ department, subject to change annually)
 - [Department of Economics Graduate Program Guidebook \(updated annually\)](#) – Field definitions and requirements
 - Certification -- Paper



Health Policy

First Year Schedule (eight courses required, six core and two AOF):

Autumn	Winter	Spring
PPHA 42000: Applied Econometrics I	PPHA 42100: Applied Econometrics II	PPHA 42200: Applied Econometrics III
PPHA 44100: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I	PPHA 44200: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis II	AOF course
PPHA 41501: Game Theory	AOF course	Elective (optional)

First Year AOF Courses:

(2 to be taken first year, and 2 to be taken second year)

- *PPHA 37820 Health Care Markets and Regulation*
- *PPHA 38300 Health Economics and Public Policy*
- *2 in advanced quantitative methods (econometrics, statistics, computer science, biostatistics or epidemiology)*

First Year GPA Requirement to waive comprehensive examination:

For students in this Area of Focus the first year GPA requirement is an average grade of B+ (3.3) across each of the following two sequences to automatically waive the comprehensive exam:

- *Applied Econometrics I, II, and III (PPHA 42000, 42100, 42200)*
- *Game Theory (PPHA 41501) and Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I and II (PPHA 44100, 44200)*

Students who do not meet the GPA requirements to automatically waive the comprehensive exam for one or more sequences will be required to take and pass a comprehensive exam covering the sequence(s) where the GPA was not met. The comprehensive exams are typically administered in the summer (August) after the first year and will be graded pass/fail.

Second Year Coursework (six courses for a quality grade):

- Field in either Industrial Organization, Labor Economics, or Public Economics (defined by Econ department, subject to change annually) and 2 additional courses
 - [Department of Economics Graduate Program Guidebook \(updated annually\)](#) – Field definitions and requirements
 - Certification – GPA 3.0
- *Two additional AOF courses*
 - *PPHA 37820 Health Care Markets and Regulation*
 - *PPHA 38300 Health Economics and Public Policy*
 - *2 in advanced quantitative methods (econometrics, statistics, computer science, biostatistics or epidemiology)*



International Policy and Development

First Year Schedule (eight courses required, six core and two AOF):

Autumn	Winter	Spring
PPHA 42000: Applied Econometrics I	PPHA 42100: Applied Econometrics II	PPHA 42200: Applied Econometrics III
PPHA 44100: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I	PPHA 44200: Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis II	AOF course
PPHA 41501: Game Theory	AOF course	Elective (optional)

First Year AOF Courses:

(select 2 courses)

- *PPHA 40102 Political Economy I: Formal Models of Domestic Politics**
- *PPHA 41102 Political Economy II**
**strongly recommended*

Courses cannot be used for first year requirement and second year field

First Year GPA Requirement to waive comprehensive examination:

For students in this Area of Focus the first year GPA requirement is an average grade of B+ (3.3) across each of the following two sequences to automatically waive the comprehensive exam:

- *Applied Econometrics I, II, and III (PPHA 42000, 42100, 42200)*
- *Game Theory (PPHA 41501) and Advanced Microeconomics for Policy Analysis I and II (PPHA 44100, 44200)*

Students who do not meet the GPA requirements to automatically waive the comprehensive exam for one or more sequences will be required to take and pass a comprehensive exam covering the sequence(s) where the GPA was not met. The comprehensive exams are typically administered in the summer (August) after the first year and will be graded pass/fail.

Second Year Coursework (six courses for a quality grade):

- Field in Development Economics (defined by Econ department, subject to change annually)
 - [Department of Economics Graduate Program Guidebook \(updated annually\)](#) – Field definitions and requirements
 - Certification – GPA 3.0

Development Economics Courses

University of Chicago

- ECON 35600 Development Economics
- ECON 41175 Behavioral Economics
- ECON 42400 Development in Economic History
- ECON 41120 Topics in Behavioral Economics



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

**HARRIS SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY**

ECON 33530 Firm Dynamics and Economic Growth

ECON 35570 Political Economy of Development

ECON 35650 Behavioral Development Economics

ECON 35580 Economics, Politics, and African Societies

**Courses required for second year field, therefore cannot be taken for first year AOF unless approved

Northwestern ([2023-2024 class schedule found here](#))

ECON 326 The Economics of Developing Countries

ECON 326 The Economics of Developing Countries

ECON 327 Economic Development in Africa

ECON 425 Development Economics

ECON 425 Development Economics

ECON 425 Development Economics

Northwestern Kellogg ([class schedule found here](#))

MECS 540 Political Economy IV: Topics in Development Economics