

# Graduate Connection

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March 2021

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## News

### *Spring Quarter Start Date*

The first day of Spring Quarter is Tuesday, March 30. But on the first day, classes that normally meet on Mondays are held. The first TTh classes are on the Thursday, and MW classes meet TW in the first week.

### *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.

### *Funding and Good Standing Guidelines for the Next Academic Year*

For students in years two and above who are not graduating this summer, look in the "Formal Announcements" sections for information on the rules and on what you need to do to remain in good standing and be funding eligible for the next academic year. Read these carefully, as action is

required by you or your advisor this coming summer. For most students the deadline for certification is July 31. The exception is for who completing their prospectus when the deadline is August 31.

### *COVID Extension of Deadlines*

Last July, The Graduate School issued a four-quarter extension of TGS deadlines for students enrolled on July 9, 2020. The Economics candidacy and prospectus deadlines are stricter than those of TGS and are not automatically extended. However, read the Department's policy on individual applications for an [extension of deadlines](#) (scroll to the bottom). The Department notes that while TGS extended its deadlines, it has not – as yet – extended any funding arrangements.

### *Faculty News*

Economic historian **Walker Hanlon** joins us as an Associate Professor in September. He is currently at New York University.

The Department has made offers or is in the search process for faculty at the junior and senior level in applied microeconomics, at the senior level in econometrics, and for a member of the teaching-track faculty.

### *Visitors and Postdocs*

The pandemic continues to curtail visitors. but we do have two postdocs here for the entire academic year: economic historian **Michele Rosenberg** – who is teaching an

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undergraduate class - and macroeconomist **John Grigsby**.

### Staff Honors

In December, **Christy Anderson** and **Kayla Atkins** deservedly won WCAS Staff Awards

**Christy Anderson** won the Meteor Award which recognizes an outstanding staff member, employed in their position for between one year and three years.

**Kayla Atkins** won the Community Excellence Award which recognizes a staff member who positively represents their department by consistently displaying approachability and a welcoming demeanor to students, faculty, and staff.

### Placement Report

Professor **Alessandro Pavan**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that due to the pandemic, the academic market was very thin this year, with about 50% of the usual employers completely out of the market. The private sector, the Federal Reserve system, and various other government agencies were able to recruit as in previous years.

Despite the adversarial situation, all our students received at least one offer. While a few students are still waiting to finalize their decisions, we are happy to report the following outcomes:

**Bence Bardocz** – Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors, Washington DC

**Ana Danieli** – Amazon

**Egor Kozlov** – Amazon, Washington

**Isaac Loh** – University of North Carolina Wilmington

**Jane Olmstead-Rumsey** – London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

**Francisco Poggi** – University of Mannheim, Germany

**Dmitry Sedov** – Uber

**Ludvig Sinander** – University of Oxford, United Kingdom (postdoc)

Students who intend to be on the job market next year, or are just curious about what it entails, are encouraged to attend an orientation on Tuesday May 4 (see in the “Events” section below).

### Eisner and Bies Awards

Each fall the Department awards:

- **Eisner Fellowship** providing stipend and tuition for three quarters to a student who has distinguished themselves in *both* teaching and research, and
- **Bies Prizes** providing 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](#).

## 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*. If you have any suggestions for additional topics, please tell **Alison Stoute**.

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### 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 account has been reactivated. You can find us at [@NUEconomics](#).

## Events

### Quarterly CS+Econ Workshop

The quarterly Computer Science and Economics workshop on machine learning and strategic behavior will be held on Monday March 15. [View](#) more information.

### Visit Day

The virtual visit day for admitted prospective PhD students is on Thursday April 1. You have received an e-mail from **Alison Stoute**, looking for volunteers as a panel member, a participant in small group field meetings and/or inviting you to coffee hour with admitted students. If you are willing, please contact her by March 5.

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

Mandatory meetings (unless you are holding a discussion section) for current second- and third-year students are on Friday April 23. DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi**, will cover

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important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding rules. He will also answer your questions.

The meetings are held virtually. The second-year meeting is 11:00AM to 11:30AM, and third-year meeting from 11:30AM to 12:00NOON. Zoom information will be sent closer to the time.

### *Development Conference*

NU's Global Poverty Research Lab is hosting the virtual Midwest Economic Development Conference on Friday and Saturday April 30 / May 1. More information at: <https://mwiedc.org/>

### *Job Market Orientation*

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year (and any advanced student curious about the process) should attend an introductory orientation meeting from 12NOON to 1PM on Tuesday May 4. This is led by Professor **Alessandro Pavan**, the Director of Graduate Placement.

### *Economic History Rookiefest*

A virtual Rookiefest in Economic History is scheduled for Friday May 21. Details are forthcoming.

### *Industrial Organization Conference*

The joint industrial organization conference with the University of Toulouse will be held at virtually on Friday and Saturday May 28 and 29. Details will be posted on the CSIO website.

### *Field Day for Current First Years*

In the week after Spring final exams, current first-year students can

attend a virtual event on what to expect next year.

The session starts with a general orientation covering academic and funding requirements and advice on the transition to the field course portion of the doctoral degree. Students then meet with field representatives to explore the various field course options in both the Economics Department and Kellogg.

The event is on Tuesday, June 15 from 9AM – 12NOON. Details will be sent nearer the event.

### *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 led by an Economics graduate student as workshop leader. Most likely it will be an all-day event on Thursday September 17. The format (in-person versus remote) has yet to be announced. Note that the date may be moved up if the University decides to move up the first day of Fall Quarter.

## 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, between

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1 and 3 units of Economics 590 can be used to supplement regular course registrations.

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. This is a change from previous practice.

### *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*

Due to the rapidly evolving situation, for any class marked as "Potentially Hybrid" consult with the instructor just prior to the start of the quarter regarding any in-person options. For all classes, please consult the syllabus for details on the mix of synchronous versus asynchronous components.

### *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.

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

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**Department of Economics Classes****Economics 412-3**

Economic Theory and Methods

Professor Pei

TTh 3:30-5:20

Remote

This course focuses on models of reputation effects and learning. It covers several workhorse models of reputations, identification problems, confounded learning, the sustainability of reputation, reputational bargaining, Bayesian learning, mis-specified learning, steady state learning, and so on. The goal is to (1) get students familiar with the ideas that reputation has significant effects on long-run outcomes and that equilibrium arises from learning; (2) introduce students to tools for analyzing reputation and learning models such as entropy methods, upcrossing inequalities, concentration inequalities, and Lyapunov stability; and (3) apply reputation models to industrial organization, macroeconomics, public finance, labor economics, and so on. It also exposes students to open questions in this area.

Evaluation is by an in-class presentation and a final project. The choice of the final project is very flexible, ranging from a literature review, to solving an open question mentioned in class, or using the models and tools learnt in the class to analyze a specific application.

While there is no set textbook, students encouraged to read *Repeated Games and Reputations* by Mailath and Samuelson (Oxford U.P., 2006), and *A Theory of Learning in Games* by Fudenberg and Levine (MIT Press, 1998).

**Economics 415-1**

Advanced Microeconomics

Professor Pavan

MW 1:30-3:20

Potentially Hybrid

The course has two parts. The first part focuses on the theory of contracts

and mechanism design: It introduces students to the basic ideas in static and dynamic mechanism design and then shows how to apply them to a variety of problems, including the design of platforms and matching algorithms. It also covers advanced topics such as ratcheting, renegotiation-proofness, type-dependent participation constraints, dynamic VCG mechanisms, dynamic profit-maximizing mechanisms, and competing principals.

The second part focuses on coordination under dispersed information with applications to bank runs, currency attacks, and the adoption of technologies in markets with network externalities. It introduces students to a class of models where higher-order uncertainty plays a central role, and then shows how to use such models to study the social value of private and public information and the design of information structures in coordination settings.

**Economics 416-3**

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Rognlie

TTh 11:00-12:50

Potentially Hybrid

Half of the course focuses on some recent developments in heterogeneous-agent New Keynesian ("HANK") models, including implications for fiscal policy, monetary policy, and international macro. The other half is a general introduction to computational techniques, both for HANK and for a variety of other models, such as models of firm-level investment or sticky prices.

Evaluation is based on problem sets, an in-class presentation, and a course project. There is some flexibility in the course project, but it must directly relate to the material covered in class.

**Economics 420-1**

American Economics History

Professor Chabot

MW 6:30-8:20PM

Remote

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, 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 (10%), a final exam (15%) and a research paper (75%).

**Economics 425-3**

Development Economics

Professor Beaman

TTh 9:00-10:50

Remote

The course covers topics including migration, labor markets and public finance in developing countries, and social interactions.

The goal is to introduce the central issues in development economics and to explore the application of microeconomic analysis, using theory and econometrics, to gain deeper insights into empirical microeconomic issues in developing countries.

Students are expected to do all the required reading and to participate in class discussion. Evaluation is based on referee reports, in-class presentations, and a substantive research project.

**Economics 440-2**

Labor Economics

Professors Lubotsky / Mazumder

MW 12:00-1:20

Remote

This is a topics class in labor economics. The first half of the course is taught by Bhashkar Mazumder and focus on intergenerational mobility,

the causal effects of parents and place on economic outcomes, long-term effects of early life health, and racial gaps in the US and historical interventions.

The second half of the course is taught by Darren Lubotsky and covers labor supply, labor demand, job search, and a deeper dive into immigration to the United States, including how the economy adjusts to immigration, self-selection of migrants, and immigrant assimilation.

Throughout the class students are introduced to key theoretical models, classic and cutting-edge empirical work, and open research questions.

Evaluation is based on a short class presentation, referee reports, and a final exam.

**Economics 450-3**

Industrial Organization  
Professor Bhattacharya  
MW 9:00-10:50

Remote

An introduction to several topics in industrial organization theory and empirical analysis. Topics include strategic investment and entry, price discrimination, search, bargaining, auctions, matching, and innovation / R&D, with the ability to tailor to student interests. The emphasis is on the estimation and testing of game theoretic models, and especially on recent developments in the field.

Evaluation is based on problem sets, referee reports, and a research proposal.

**Economics 460-2**

International Economics  
Professor Matsuyama  
MW 3:30-5:20

Remote

This course can be taken independently of Econ 460-1. It studies how “globalization” - interactions between countries, regions, and cities such as trade in goods, factor movements, and technology transfers / diffusions –

contributes to growth, inequality, and structural transformation. The course reviews the basic models of economic growth and structural transformation and those of international trade, economic geography, and regional / urban economics. It looks at several recent attempts to integrate these models to understand their interactions.

About 12 lectures from Professor Matsuyama are followed by about 3 guest lectures by Professor Mestieri on his research on technology diffusions over space and time. This is followed by student presentations on some selected topics.

Evaluation is based on class attendance and a class presentation.

**Economics 481-3**

Advanced Econometrics  
Professor Canay  
TTh 1:30-3:20

Remote

The course covers modern econometrics topics from a theoretical point of view but with lessons for practitioners. It is divided in five parts. 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 local asymptotic approximations, contiguity, and local asymptotic normality. The idea of this part is to understand that a given finite sample object may be approximated in different ways, and not all ways are equally appropriate. The third part covers uniformly valid approximations, with applications to the bootstrap and subsampling in moment inequality models. The fourth part presents recent developments on inference with clustered data, especially in context where there are few clusters, including the wild bootstrap and approximate randomization tests. The final section is about recent developments on inference in the regression discontinuity design.

Evaluation is by a research proposal, a problem set, weekly reports, 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.

**Other Departments' Classes**

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

**Finance 520-1**

Time Series Analysis  
Professor Todorov  
M 1:00-4:00

Remote

This course provides an overview of some of the most important of procedures for specification, estimation, and diagnostic testing of dynamic models involving economic time series. The focus is on results most relevant for practical applications rather than formal proofs of theorems, with the various econometric techniques illustrated through problems in both macroeconomics and asset pricing finance.

Evaluation is by several problem sets and a final exam. The recommended text is *Time Series Analysis* by James Hamilton (Princeton U.P, 1994).

**Finance 585-3**

Asset Pricing  
Professor Andersen  
T 1:30-4:30

Remote

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

**Finance 586-3**

Corporate Finance  
Professor Benmelech / Sapienza  
F 9-12 Remote

This course provides a theoretical and empirical treatment of major topics in empirical corporate finance, including applied financial contracting, banking, executive compensation, entrepreneurship shadow banking, financial regulation, and household finance.

**MECS 540-3**

Political Economy: Social Choice and Voting Models  
Professor Egorov  
W 9-12 Remote

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 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  
M 8:30-11:30AM Remote

This course introduces three important topics within development economics: firms, long-run development, and political economy. This 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 contract enforcement, relational contracting, misallocation, firm organization, corruption, foreign aid, conflict, and institutions. The class focuses on empirical methods and how they connect with theory. The goal of this course is to help students transition into the research phase of their career -- to help students formulate interesting, relevant, and feasible research agendas.

Evaluation is based on in-class presentations and discussion.

**MECS 550-2**

Economic Theory: Advanced Topics in Game Theory  
Professor Martin  
T 1:30-4:30 Remote

This class presents selected topics at the frontier of behavioral economics, with an emphasis on

active research areas such as inattention / perception, biased beliefs, and failures of strategic reasoning. The course provides evidence (from the lab and the field) on individual departures from the standard economic paradigm, analyze these phenomena with rigorous formal models, and discuss how these biases impact markets and allocations.

Evaluation is by student engagement, several short brainstorming exercises, and a referee report.

**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  
T 9:00-12:00 Remote

Students are not required to have taken MECS 570-1. The class covers a mixture of mostly theoretical and some empirical work, with a focus on productivity dispersion among firms and other topics relevant to organizations. Lectures, discussions, and assignments emphasize open questions and development of independent research projects. Topics include dynamic inefficiencies in organizations, with applications to incentive contracts, communication, delegation, and learning; stylized facts and empirical evidence on the causes and consequences of productivity dispersion; the interaction between firm organization, financial contracts, and the labor market; the role of management; and the role of institutions.

Evaluated is based on short model development essays and presentations. There is no required

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textbook, though *The Handbook of Organizational Economics* (edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, Princeton U.P., 2013) is a valuable reference text.

**COMP\_SCI 496-0-13**

Learning, Information, and Data  
 Professor Liang  
 MW 5:00-6:20

Remote

This is a topics course for students interested in pursuing research at the intersection of economics and computer science. The first half covers foundational and/or technical papers regarding information and learning. The second half covers new perspectives on these topics, with a focus on modeling challenges related to "big data" and its social and economic consequences.

Evaluation is based on two problem sets and a presentation.

**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 a few Fridays 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
3/29	Rafi *	Katayama	
4/5	Pareschi	Wang, J	
4/12	Murphy	Alvarado	
4/19	Premo	Cid Ortiz	
4/26	Wilner	Kyriazis	
5/3	Gex	Qiu	
5/10	Bayas-Erazo	Vairo	Li
5/17	Wang, T	Lou	Lopez
5/24	Hanks	Doser	Decamps
5/31	Memorial Day	Rachkovski	O'Keefe

\* Class is on Tuesday March 30

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 46 sessions this academic year, so absence from five 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 46 sessions has to make up nine sessions, calculated as  $3 \times (7 - 4) = 9$ .)"

**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**

- Matsuura, Ryunosuke
- Salas, Jose
- Durazzo, Felipe
- Moreira Santana Freire, Miguel
- Zhu, Hans
- Cai, Michael
- Sciacovelli, Giovanni
- Lyu, Kaman
- Chiu, Kwok Yan
- Yehoshua-Sandak, Tomer
- Liu, Yijun
- Han, Luxi
- Velez Salamanca, Amilcar
- Evdokimova, Anastasiia
- Obradovic, Filip
- Pellet, Thomas
- Decet, Devis
- Ohi, Pedro
- Huerta, Diego
- Yang, Jin
- Han, Jinwook

**Spring Quarter**

- Sciacovelli, Giovanni
- Han, Jinwook
- Cai, Michael
- Liu, Yijun
- Velez Salamanca, Amilcar
- Decet, Devis
- Huerta, Diego
- Salas, Jose
- Yang, Jin
- Obradovic, Filip

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Matsuura, Ryunosuke  
Han, Luxi  
Evdokimova, Anastasiia  
Zhu, Hans  
Moreira Santana Freire, Miguel  
Pellet, Thomas  
Ohi, Pedro  
Lyu, Kaman  
Yehoshua-Sandak, Tomer  
Durazzo, Felipe  
Chiu, Kwok Yan

Second year students may wish to attend some of this spring's seminars to get some idea of expectations for 501 papers. Contact the Graduate Program Manager for access to the remote class.

### *2021-22 Quarter Dates*

The current plan is:

Fall: **Tues** Sept 21 - Fri Dec 10

Winter: Mon Jan 3 - Fri March 18

Spring: **Tues** March 29 - Fri June 10

It is possible that some of these dates may change. In AY 20-21 the start of Fall Quarter was moved up to the previous week.

## Formal Announcements

### *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. 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. In 2021 the meetings are virtual, and 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

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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 send 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 guarantee fourth year funding.

Note the rules on committee composition. All dissertation committee chairs must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics

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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).

For this Winter Quarter you must be available on weekdays virtually between Monday January 11 and Monday March 22.

For Spring Quarter, you do not have to be physically present in Chicago, but you must be available on weekdays virtually between Tuesday March 30 and Monday June 14.

You should arrange vacations accordingly.

### *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 Forms** will be posted most likely about August 20. Allocations will be made about September 1.

**New TA Training** is usually the Thursday before Fall classes start (Thursday September 16). The modality has yet to be announced, but if you believe that you will be serving as a TA for the first time next year, please arrange your schedule so that you are available in Evanston on that date.

**First day of class** is currently planned to be Tuesday September 21. Pending further announcements by the University, the working

assumption is that you will need to be physically present in Evanston to conduct TA duties in Fall Quarter.

**Next Holiday Season** All TAs must be in Evanston until Monday lunchtime on December 13 to complete grading duties. If you are making holiday travel arrangements, please ensure that you remain in Evanston until this date. In addition, you need to be back in Evanston by Sunday night, January 2 for the start of winter classes.

### *TA Duties in Other Departments*

Our policy is that any other Departments that desire 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*

Normally in August we have an on-line process to allow older graduate students to re-optimize the carrel room they occupy, and current first year (and second year) students to select vacant carrels.

We will let you know when University return-to-campus plans

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allow us to do this. This will also depend on State-mandated space occupancy rules.

### *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:

**April 23:** Application for a Degree.

**May 7:** Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.

**May 14:** Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

And for students graduating in early September:

**July 9:** Application for a Degree.

**August 6:** Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.

**August 20:** Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

### *Commencement Arrangements*

The University and TGS has yet to announcement the nature of Commencement and any "PhD hooding ceremony." In theory, TGS hooding ceremonies are scheduled for the weekend of June 12-13, and commencement is scheduled for Monday June 14. Information will be posted at the [University Commencement webpage](#).

### *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 accomplished by a one-time

registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a 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. *Note that currently University-supported travel is restricted.*

## **Notes**

### *Next Graduate Connection*

Volume 27, number 1 will be published after Labor Day about Sept. 7.

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