

Graduate Connection

Vol. 27 No. 3

March 2022

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News

Spring Quarter Start Date

The first day of Spring Quarter is Tuesday, March 29. 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.

Research Seminars

While not part of the formal degree requirements, attending research seminars is probably one of the most valuable aspects of graduate education. As a signaling and commitment device students can formally register for one or more of these series. Starting this Spring, registration for the development seminar is separated from the applied micro seminar. The development seminar is ECON 525, and the health, education, labor and public economics seminar retains the existing ECON 535 number.

Faculty News

Congratulations to **Sara Hernandez-Saborit** on her promotion to Associate Professor of Instruction. This was effective from the start of the current academic year.

Congratulations to **Piotr Dworcak** on receiving a Sloan Foundation Research Fellowship that recognizes outstanding early-career researchers.

The Department has made offers or is in the search process for faculty at both the junior and senior levels.

Visitors and Postdocs

Six of our existing visitors and postdocs will also be here in Spring Quarter: macroeconomist **David Argente** from Penn State University, theorist **Christoph Carnehl** from Bocconi University, macroeconomic and public finance theorist **Carlos da Costa** from FGV EPGE Brazilian School of Economics and Finance in Rio de Janeiro, development economist **Sarah Deschênes** economic historian **Sebastian Ottinger**, and theorist **Larry Samuelson** from Yale University

Joining us for this Spring is **George-Marios Angeletos** from MIT. He is coteaching a course with **Alessandro Pavan** (see Teaching section). Also teaching this Spring is **Oren Levintal** from Reichman University in Israel. He is teaching an undergraduate course on the economic history of Israel.

Staff News

There have been several changes in our Main Office. In January, **Kayla Atkins** moved to accept a position in the provost's office. We are pleased to congratulate **Lola Ittner** on her promotion to manage seminars, conferences, special events and faculty support. On February 28, **Kayla Johnson** joined us and takes over front office functions such as mail, supplies, keys, the copiers, and room reservations.

Alison Stoute has taken a senior staff position in the Kellogg School of Management. We are currently searching for her successor as Graduate Program Manager.

Greg Schrader our IT support staff member has moved to support the

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Dean's Office. He is replaced by **Max Kaulich** who works from our offices on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Placement Report

Professor **Alessandro Pavan**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that the market seems to have recovered well from the pandemic. The demand for our students, both by the private sector and by academic employers, was solid, with all our students receiving multiple offers. Perhaps, the only component of the market that is still low is government agencies and international institutions such as the IMF and World Bank.

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

Brendon Andrews - University of Alberta

Riccardo Bianchi Vimercati – PIMCO, Newport Beach, CA

Matteo Camboni - University of Wisconsin

Junyan Guan - Compass Lexecon, Chicago

Honn Tai Lam - University of California Los Angeles (Business School)

Matteo Magnaricotte - University of Chicago (Crime Lab)

Joris Mueller - National University of Singapore

Michael Porcellacchia - Kiel Institute for World Economy, Germany

Yunus Topbas - Peking University, China

Francesca Truffa - University of Delaware (postdoc at Stanford University)

Benjamin Vatter - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Business School)

Ashley Wong - Tilburg University, The Netherlands (postdoc at Stanford University)

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 13 (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](#).

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

Events

Economic History Conference

The Center for Economic History hosts an international conference on the topic of War and Economic History on Friday and Saturday, March 25-26. More information at the [conference website](#).

Visit Day

The virtual visit day for admitted prospective PhD students is on Thursday March 31. The event will be held virtually. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be part of the program.

Bies Lecture

The annual Susan Bies (PhD, 1972) departmental lecture on economic policy is at 4:00PM on Tuesday April 26 in White Family Auditorium on the second floor. This year's speaker is **Darrel Duffie** of Stanford University. The topic is "Financial Market Fragmentation."

Second- & Third-Year Town Hall Meetings

Mandatory meetings (unless you are holding a discussion section) for second and third year students are on Friday April 29. DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi**, and Associate Chair **Ian Savage** will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and good-progress milestones. They will also answer your questions.

The meetings will be held in KGH 3301. Second year students should attend from 11:00AM to 11:30AM, and

third year students from 11:30AM to 12:00NOON.

Development Events

NU's Global Poverty Research Lab is hosting a Rookiefest in development economics on Wednesday and Thursday May 4-5. This is followed on Friday and Saturday May 6-7 by the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) conference. These events are by invitation. Interested students should talk with Professor **Chris Udry**.

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 13 in room 3301. Professor **Alessandro Pavan**, the Director of Graduate Placement, will lead an orientation. Any student in the third year and beyond who is curious about the job market process is welcome.

Economic History Conference

The Center for Economic History hosts a conference on **Walker Hanlon's** new book, *The Rise and Fall of Laissez Faire* on Friday and Saturday, May 20-21. More details will be forthcoming on the [center's website](#).

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. It is a virtual event on Thursday and Friday September 15 and 16.

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 reputation effects, limited memories, repeated games with incomplete information, stochastic games, bargaining, social learning, and steady state learning.

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

Economics 412-2

Economics of Information

Professor Guo

Th 1:30-3:20

FSL 2378

F 1:30-3:20

KGH 3301

The course covers two major research areas: mechanism design without transfers and robust mechanism design. It reviews a series of papers including the very recent contributions and has a focus on analytical tools. Topics covered include delegation, dynamic mechanisms without money, information design, evidence models, mechanism design under worst-case payoff or worst-case regret. The main objective is to explore the frontier of

these topics and to help students find research projects.

Evaluation is by submission of two referee reports and one presentation.

Economics 416-3

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Rognlie

MW 9:00-10:50

KGH 3301

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

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, 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%), a final exam (20%) and a research paper (60%).

Economics 425-3

Development Economics

Professor Beaman

TTh 9:00-10:50

KGH 3301

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 these questions. Applications relate to empirical microeconomic issues in developing countries with a few papers from developed country contexts as well. The course covers topics including migration, labor markets and public finance in developing countries, and social networks.

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 450-3

Industrial Organization

Professor Hendel

TTh 11:00-12:50

KGH 1410

The course covers papers in two areas (1) empirics of contracts, and (2) estimation of dynamic industrial organization models. The former covers empirical attempts at testing contract theories, including hidden information as well as incentive models. The second part covers dynamic estimation methods and their application to industrial organization. The course may venture into other areas, such as the recent increase in market concentration, based on student interest.

Economics 460-2

International Economics

Professor Matsuyama

MW 3:30-5:20

KGH 3301

This course can be taken independently of Econ 460-1. The

primary goal is to understand how "globalization," i.e., interactions between countries, regions, and cities (through trade in goods, factor movements, and technology transfers / diffusions), contribute to growth and structural transformation. The course reviews some workhorse models of economic growth and structural transformation, international trade, economic geography, and regional and urban economics. Then, it looks at several attempts to integrate these models to understand their interactions. Even though most existing studies heavily rely on CES demand structure, one exciting recent development, which will be given particular emphasis, is to explore the role of non-CES demand structure to capture some new mechanisms.

Depending on the size of the class, Professor Matsuyama will give about 12 or so lectures, followed by 2 guest zoom lectures by Martí Mestieri on his research on technology diffusions over space and time, and finally student presentations on some selected topics.

Evaluation is based on class participation and class presentation.

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 of the class covers local average treatment effects, marginal treatment effects, and Roy models. These are commonly used tools in applied micro. The second part covers double de-bias machine learning for treatment effects and estimation of treatment effects via surrogates. The third part covers local asymptotic approximations, contiguity,

and local asymptotic normality. The last part covers uniformly valid approximations, with applications to the bootstrap and subsampling in moment inequality models.

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.

Economics 498-1

Advanced Topics

Professors Angeletos & Pavan

MW 1:30-3:20

KGH 1410

This course can be counted as either part of a sequence in microeconomic theory or as part of a sequence in macroeconomics (but cannot double count for both).

The course focuses on the role of coordination, information, and expectations in settings of interest to both macro and microeconomists. Topics include beauty contests, global games, information acquisition, rational inattention, and bounded rationality. After being introduced to the theoretical underpinnings, students will learn how to apply the techniques to topics such as business-cycle fluctuations, bank runs, political change, the social value of information, and optimal monetary and fiscal policy with endogenous uncertainty.

A knowledge of real analysis is a prerequisite. Evaluation is by problem sets and a final project on a topic selected by the student jointly with the instructors.

Economics 498-2-20

Advanced Topics

Professor Diane Schanzenbach

MW 1:30-3:20

KGH 3301

Note section number when registering. This is a topics course in labor economics. It covers labor supply; labor demand; human capital; taxes and transfers; poverty, inequality and mobility; and group differences. Students are introduced to key theoretical models, classic and cutting-edge empirical work, and open research questions.

Evaluation is based on class participation, class presentation, referee report, research proposals and a final exam.

Economics 498-2-30

Advanced Topics

Professor Illanes

See syllabus for time and location

Note section number when registering. This course supplements the Econ 450 sequence in industrial organization by providing a forum for students and faculty to discuss recent papers in the field. Course topics and papers are suggested by students, with guidance from the instructor.

The course is open to students who are concurrently enrolled in Econ 450-3. This course is a supplement to the 450 courses and not meant to substitute for any of them.

Other Departments' Classes

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

Finance 585-3

Asset Pricing

Professor Andersen

F 1:30-4:30

KGH 5201

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

KGH 4302

This course provides a theoretical and empirical treatment of major topics in empirical corporate finance, including financial contracting; banking, securitization, and financial regulation: household finance and macroeconomics; entrepreneurship and venture capital.

MECS 540-3

Political Economy: Social Choice and Voting Models

Professor Egorov

W 9-12

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 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
F 1:30-4:30 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 550-2

Economic Theory: Advanced Topics in Game Theory
Professors Mollner and Schummer
M 2-5 KGH 4302

The first half of the course (Mollner) briefly discusses object allocation then shifts to auction theory, beginning with some classic work followed by more recent work, with a partial emphasis on modern applications (e.g., internet advertising auctions, spectrum auctions). The second half (Schummer) spends two weeks on the fundamental results of matching theory and object allocation, then surveys various applications in areas which can be tailored to student preference.

Evaluation is based on roughly four presentations per student (two per course-half). Subject to feasibility, students may ask to exchange some presentations for a writing requirement. Required text is *Two-Sided Matching* by Roth & Sotomayor (Cambridge U.P., 1992).

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

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 single 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
3/28	Sciacovelli*	Han, Jinwook	
4/4	Cai	Liu	
4/11	Velez Salamanca	Decet	
4/18	Huerta	Salas	
4/25	Yang	Obradovic	

5/2	Matsuura	Han, Luxi	
5/9	Evdokimova	Zhu	
5/16	Moreira Santana Freire	Pellet	
5/23	Lyu	Yehoshua- Sandak	
5/30	Memorial Day	Durazzo	Chiu

* Class is on Tuesday March 29

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 42 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 42 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

Nunes Fava, Bruno
 Higuera Corona, Jose
 Poblete Coddou, Sebastian
 Ferrara, Andrea
 Fedchenko, Danil
 Fisher, Tom
 Jaramillo Rojas, Elizabeth
 Sardon, Sebastian
 Bainwala, Vageesha
 Fluegel, Nina
 Mosillo, Ludovica
 Di Tommaso, Valerio
 Chopra, Hershdeep
 Pizzimenti, Cristoforo
 Pisauero, Giovanni
 Ohi, Pedro
 Berrutti Rampa, Juan Felipe
 Okumura, Kyohei
 Fu, Kenneth
 Ruzzante, Matteo
 Crippa, Federico
 Huang, Shuyan

Durazzo, Felipe
 Jardanovski, Gabriel
 Sims, Christopher
 Iakovlev, Andrei
 Ramakrishnan, Radhika

Spring Quarter

Ruzzante, Matteo
 Pizzimenti, Cristoforo
 Mosillo, Ludovica
 Di Tommaso, Valerio
 Huang, Shuyan
 Jardanovski, Gabriel
 Sims, Christopher
 Nunes Fava, Bruno
 Fluegel, Nina
 Sardon, Sebastian
 Okumura, Kyohei
 Ferrara, Andrea
 Higuera Corona, Jose
 Ohi, Pedro
 Fisher, Tom
 Pisauero, Giovanni
 Berrutti Rampa, Juan Felipe
 Iakovlev, Andrei
 Crippa, Federico
 Fedchenko, Danil
 Fu, Kenneth
 Chopra, Hershdeep
 Jaramillo Rojas, Elizabeth
 Ramakrishnan, Radhika
 Bainwala, Vageesha
 Poblete Coddou, Sebastian

Second year students may wish to attend some of this spring's seminars to get some idea of expectations for 501 papers.

2022-23 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Tues** Sept 20 - Fri Dec 9
 Winter: **Tues** Jan 3 - Fri March 17
 Spring: **Tues** March 28 - Fri June 9

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. 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

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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 21

Spring: Tues March 29 - Mon June 13

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 20. Allocations are made about September 1.

New TA Training is held virtually on Zoom on Thursday and Friday September 15 and 16. 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 on these dates.

First day of class is Tuesday September 20. 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 12 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 Monday 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 Connection • 9

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

May 13: Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

And for students graduating in early September:

July 8: Application for a Degree.

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

August 19: Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

Commencement Arrangements

Saturday June 11, 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 13 at 9:00AM at Ryan Field. The main Commencement ceremonies.

Late in April students expecting to graduate in June receive information 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.

Notes

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 28, number 1 will be published after Labor Day about Sept. 6.

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.
