

Northwestern | Economics

PhD Student Developmental Benchmarks

First Year

- Form study groups and identify effective study strategies
- Utilize resources (TA office hours, Faculty, Counseling and Psychological Services)
- Demonstrate proficiency in spoken English*
- Demonstrate competency in three core areas (microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics)
- Apply for Master's Degree

Second Year

- Explore fields via sequences and faculty, and through attendance at field seminars and lunches
- Attend ECON 501 seminars to gain an understanding of paper and presentation expectation
- Build relationships with faculty that could serve on committee and identify a potential committee Chair
- Write ECON 501 paper
- Complete Teaching Assistantship*

Third Year

- Attend field lunches and seminars
- Enroll in ECON 501 and give two presentations
- Create committee of faculty, including identification of the committee Chair
- Defend Prospectus
- Complete Teaching Assistantship*

Fourth Year

- Research & Write Job Market Paper
- Present regularly in field lunch seminars
- Attend weekly field seminars and lunches
- Attend Job Market Practice Presentations

Fifth Year & Beyond

- Practice Job Market Presentation
- Practice interviewing skills through mock interviews
- Present regularly in field lunch seminars
- Finalize Job Market Paper
- Defend Thesis successfully; submit final copy of thesis, apply for PhD degree and submit final dissertation

*If applicable