MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS 
AND STRATEGY PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, 
those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide 
(https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures).

Requirements can also be found in the Program Guidelines for Managerial 
Economics & Strategy PhD students issued by the Kellogg School of 
Management.

Master's

The goal of our doctoral program is the awarding of a PhD degree. En 
rout to this goal, a Master of Science (MS) degree can be awarded to 
currently enrolled, qualified Kellogg doctoral students who are in good 
academic standing, have completed a minimum of three quarters of 
coursework with a cumulative 3.0 GPA, and have achieved minimum of a 
“master’s pass” on the preliminary (“field”) exams.

PhD

Total Units Required: 18

Students in the PhD program are required to take (at least) the following 
nine courses in their first year (at least 3 courses in each of fall, winter, 
and spring quarters).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MECS 560-1</td>
<td>Static Optimization in Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECS 560-2</td>
<td>Dynamic Optimization in Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECS 560-3</td>
<td>Research in Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 410-1</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 410-2</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 410-3</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 480-1</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 480-2</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 480-3</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
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</tbody>
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In the second year, PhD students register for a minimum of nine courses 
to fulfill the 18-course requirement. These nine courses must contain at 
least three sequences – at least two courses within the same area of 
study. Registration for an Independent Study (MECS 499-0 Independent 
Study) may count towards the coursework requirement.

Other PhD Degree Requirements

• Examinations: Students at the end of year one are required 
to demonstrate competence in three fields: microeconomics, 
econometrics, and optimization. This can be done by achieving a 3.6 
GPA across the course sequences, or by passing the corresponding 
preliminary or qualifying exam in all three fields. Once competence in 
these three fields is achieved, students are passed into candidacy at 
the end of year one.

• Research/Projects: Completion of a second-year research paper 
submitted in September prior to the beginning of year three.

• PhD Dissertation: Original and significant research. Topic should be 
selected in year three, in collaboration with the advisor or advisors; 
presentation of preliminary results (prospectus) to committee 
members no later than September 15 prior to the beginning of fourth 
year.

• Final Evaluations: Oral final examination on dissertation and 
submission of an approved dissertation.