National Chung Cheng University
Department of Economics
Ph.D. Program General Requirements

Revisited：August 5, 2026

I. Students who enter the Ph.D. program in the Department of Economics at National Chung Cheng University already holding a master degree in the related field have a normal residency requirement equivalent to three academic years of study upon entering the Ph.D. program. The minimum is two and the maximum is seven academic years. Students who transfer from the master program to the Ph.D. program should follow the same requirement upon entering the Ph.D. program. A student is advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. when he or she has satisfactorily met all the course requirements and passed the qualifying exams.

II. Course requirements

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program who have earned a master degree must receive a minimum of 40 credit hours. Students who transfer from a master program to the Ph.D. program must receive a minimum of 46 credit hours. The aforementioned credit hours exclude the dissertation, independent study and undergraduate elective courses.

The following five courses are required (3 credit hours each): Microeconomic Theory (II), Macroeconomic Theory (II) Econometrics (II), International Trade (II), and International Finance (II). Students also need to take two two-credit-hour seminars on international economics. Table 1 presents a complete list of required and elective courses.

Ph.D. students are required to complete one area of specialization consisting of three or more courses. Table 2 presents a list of fields and the corresponding courses.

Each course has a total of 100 points and 70% is considered as a passing grade. Students who fail a course are allowed to retake the course in the following semesters.

III. Course Waiver and Transfer Policy

Students who are admitted to the Ph.D. program can file an application of course waivers and transfers by the end of August. Students may request a credit transfer for graduate work done at other institutions and not used in fulfillment of the requirements for any bachelor or master degree. A credit waiver may be requested for graduate work done at other institutions that has been used in fulfillment of the requirements for any bachelor or master degree. Credits for the waived courses on the approval of the department are not counted in fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. program. Credits for the transferred required courses on the approval of the department are counted in fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. program. Credits for the transferred elective courses on the approval of the department are not counted in fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. program.

IV. Qualifying Exams

The qualifying exam requirement involves passing written tests or reaching minimum scores in the required courses.

The written tests include economic theory and international economics. Upon completion of Microeconomic Theory (II) and Macroeconomic Theory (II), students can take the written test of economic theory. Upon completion of International Finance (II) and International Trade (II), students can take the written test of international economics.

To maintain eligibility in the Ph.D. program, students pursuing the Ph.D. degree should take written qualifying exams and receive a passing grade within nine semesters of study. Students have three trials for each written qualifying exam. If a student takes a qualifying exam and suspends from the program in the same semester, the exam grade is still counted in fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D. program.

The written qualifying exams will be held every semester. Students should file an application for taking the qualifying exam within a week after the midterm week. The written qualifying exams will be held within one week before the registration date for the next semester. At least two faculty members are involved in the written qualifying exam committee.

Students in the Ph.D. program who earn a semester grade of 85% and above in Microeconomic Theory (II) and Macroeconomic Theory (II) can be exempted from taking the written qualifying exam of economic theory. Students in the Ph.D. program who earn a semester grade of 85% and above in International Finance (II) and International Trade (II) can be exempted from taking the written qualifying exam of international economics. Students who do not earn a semester grade of 85% in any of the aforementioned courses can retake the course within nine semesters of entering the Ph.D. program.

V. Proposal Defense Examination

Students who have been advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. can apply for a dissertation proposal defense. The proposal defense must be approved by the dissertation adviser and a dissertation proposal defense committee. The committee members should include the dissertation adviser and more than three faculty members or experts in the related fields.

VI. Dissertation Defense Examination

Upon applying for the dissertation defense examination, the Ph.D. candidates must meet the following requirements: (1) at least two papers presented in domestic or international conferences; (2) at least one academic book, or one book chapter, or at least one paper published in journals collected in Scopus database or TSSCI, THCI level 2 or above; (3) a formal presentation in the seminar held by the Department of Economics; (4) meet the English proficiency level (see Table 3) and (5) pass the academic integrity and ethics curriculum.

The starting and ending dates for applying for the dissertation defense examination are marked on the school academic calendar. The application date for a dissertation defense examination must precede the dissertation defense by at least two weeks.

VII. Graduate students will be granted with a Ph.D. degree when he or she is advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. on schedule and has a satisfactory dissertation defense examination grade and satisfactory conduct.

VIII. The Ph.D. program requirements including any amendments should be approved in departmental meetings and sent to the Office of Academic Affairs for future reference.

Table 1 Ph.D. Program Curriculum

Required Courses	Course	Credit hours	Semester offered
Microeconomic Theory (II)	5105102	3	Spring
Macroeconomic Theory (II)	5105202	3	Spring
Econometrics (II)	5105302	3	Spring
International Trade (II)	5105402	3	Fall
International Finance (II)	5105502	3	Fall
Seminar on the Topics of International Economics (I)	5105803	2	Fall
Seminar on the Topics of International Economics (II)	5105804	2	Spring
Elective Courses	**Course**	**Credit hours**	**Semester offered**
Microeconomic Theory (I)	5105101	3	Fall
Macroeconomic Theory (I)	5105201	3	Fall
Econometrics (I)	5105301	3	Fall
Topics in Microeconomics	5105104	3	Fall
Topics in Macroeconomics	5105204	3	Fall
Mathematical Economics (I)	5105363	3	Fall
Mathematical Economics (II)	5105364	3	Spring
Game Theory (I)	5105369	3	Fall
Game Theory (II)	5105368	3	Spring
Industrial Organization (I)	5105161	3	Spring
Industrial Organization (II)	5105162	3	Fall
Industrial Organization (III)	5105163	3	Fall
Development Economics (I)	5105601	3	Spring
Development Economics (II)	5105602	3	Fall
Development Economics (III)	5105603	3	Spring
Topics in the Economy of Mainland China (I)	5105821	3	Spring
Topics in the Economy of Mainland China (II)	5105822	3	Fall
International Political Economy	5105380	3	Fall
Public Economics	5105604	3	Spring
International Trade (III)	5105403	3	Spring

International Trade (IV)	5105404	3	Spring
International Finance (III)	5105503	3	Spring
International Finance (IV)	5105504	3	Spring
Topics in Monetary Theory (I)	5105241	3	Spring
Topics in Monetary Theory (II)	5105242	3	Fall
Topics in Monetary Theory (III)	5105243	3	Fall
Financial Economics (I)	5105641	3	Spring
Financial Economics (II)	5105642	3	Spring
Financial Economics (III)	5105643	3	Spring
Financial Econometrics	5105315	3	Fall
International Financial Market*	5105510	3	Spring
Microeconometrics (I)	5105311	3	Spring
Microeconometrics (II)	5105312	3	Fall
Empirical Microeconomics*	5105701	3	Fall
Macroeconometrics	5105320	3	Spring
Applications of Macroeconometrics	5105325	3	Fall
Topics in Econometrics	5105862	3	Fall
Seminar on the Topics of Finance and Economics *	5105863	3	Fall
Seminar on the Topics of Economic Policy	5105864	3	Spring
Topics in Trade and Foreign Investment*	5105865	3	Spring

* also open for Junior and Senior undergraduates.

Table 2 Ph.D. Program Fields and Courses

Field	Courses
International Finance and Monetary Economics	Topics in Macroeconomics International Finance (III) (IV) Topics in Monetary Theory (I) (II) (III) Financial Economics (I) (II) (III)
International Trade and Industrial Organization	Topics in Microeconomics International Trade (III) (IV) International Organization (I) (II) (III) Empirical Microeconomics Development Economics (I) (II) (III) International Political Economy
Econometrics	Microeconometrics (I) (II) Macroeconometrics Financial Econometrics

Table 3 Ph.D. Program English Proficiency Requirement

Option 1: Meeting the minimum requirements of one of the following certified English tests

Category	Minimum Requirement
TOEFL ITP	550
TOEFL-iBT	80
GEPT	High-intermediate Level
TOEIC	750
IELTS	6.0
FLPT	195
BULATS	ALTE Level 3
Cambridge Main Suite	First Certificate in English (FCE)

Option 2: Students who receive a TOEIC score below 750 will take graduate school English courses offered by the College of Management. Those whose TOEIC score is above 650 but below 750 will take one core course, Those whose TOEIC score is above 550 but below 650 will take two core course and those whose score is below 550 will take three core courses.

Option 3: Doctoral Dissertation is written by English.