Preparing Economists for Careers in Research, Teaching, Business and Government

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
IU SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AT IUPUI

PH.D. SPECIALIZING IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

IUPUI
The Department of Economics in the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI is proud to offer a Ph.D. program that specializes in Health Economics. We launched the program in 2009, building on 20 years of success with our Master of Economics program, and drawing on our having been recognized as one of the top 200 economics research departments in the world and one of the top 80 in the United States.

The program’s curriculum was designed with the assistance of specialists in health economics. As a result, it brings together the best ideas from practicing professionals and experienced faculty.

First-year students receive rigorous training in mathematics, economic theory and econometrics, emphasizing microeconomic theory and microeconometrics. They also take a course on the institutional context of health, health care and health insurance. In the second year, they take a two-course sequence in health economics. Later, they take courses in fields such as biostatistics, epidemiology, bioethics or health policy, giving them a background that facilitates working in the interdisciplinary teams that are common in the health field.

In addition to econometric theory, students take a year-long sequence in applied econometrics that emphasizes statistical packages, working with large datasets, problems in applied econometrics, and research proposal writing.

Overall, the program gives students strong training in microeconomic theory, econometrics, and health economics, enhanced with exposure to related disciplines that are central to health and health care.
As chair, I am delighted to help build our young Ph.D. program that specializes in the growing field of health economics. The program has already attracted talented faculty and bright students from around the world.

STEVEN RUSSELL, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

“Large Concentration of Faculty and Students in Health Economics

IUPUI’s Economics Department has 21 faculty members – six of whom have research specialties in health economics. Our professors bring a wide range of international perspectives to teaching economics, and they have well-established, externally-recognized research programs.

Given its 20 years of experience attracting the best and brightest students to its Master of Economics program, IUPUI boasts a large concentration of students pursuing graduate studies in economics. The Ph.D. program has further established IUPUI as a major center for graduate studies in economics.

With so many accomplished faculty in economics, our Ph.D. students have easy access to individual faculty members, one on one.

“Our large contingent of faculty and students doing research in health economics on our campus makes for a very stimulating atmosphere.”

YAA AKOSA ANTWI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

PAUL CARLIN
Professor Emeritus
Ph.D. Economics, University of Pittsburgh


Professor Carlin is an empirical micro-economist who primarily uses the tool of multiple regression analysis on large micro data sets. His recent research has focused on affirmative action; wage differences among castes in India; and explaining country-level differences in obesity prevalence.

SUBIR CHAKRABARTI
Professor
Ph.D. Economics, University of Iowa

RESEARCH AREAS: Game Theory, Microeconomic Theory.

Professor Chakrabarti uses economic theory to study the role that strategic behavior plays in determining outcomes in markets and economic institutions. Professor Chakrabarti’s recent research has revisited the Nash Map associated with John Nash and addressed the characteristics of dynamic collusive behavior in oligopolies when there is incomplete information.

SUMEDHA GUPTA
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Economics, Tinbergen Institute/Free University of Amsterdam

RESEARCH AREAS: Applied Econometrics, Health Economics.

Professor Gupta’s primary research program employs the advanced econometric techniques of duration analysis to analyze the effect of early life events on health over the life course. She is also conducting research on the differences between self-reported and clinically measured height and weight for inferences on obesity.
RESERCH AREAS: Contract Theory, Industrial Organization.

Professor Kim's current research focuses on conditions leading to price discrimination in markets and on issues of delegation and leadership and the conditions under which inculcating leadership qualities in one's agents can be a productive strategy for a principal.

HENRY (YINGHIN) MAK
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Economics,
Boston University

RESERCH AREAS: Industrial Organization, Health Economics, Public Economics.

Dr. Mak studies the optimal design of public reporting and regulatory policies in health care markets and other markets that suffer from information asymmetry. His most recent research focuses on adverse side effects of physician ratings schemes.

G.C. 'WENDY' MORRISON
Associate Professor
Ph.D. Economics,
York University (U.K.)

RESERCH AREAS: Experimental Economics, Health Economics.

Professor Morrison uses both consumer surveys and experimental methods to examine consumer valuation of assets in general and health in particular. Her recent research has focused on cost effectiveness of treatments for cancer pain and depression and on the appropriateness of a particular survey instrument for assessing the Health Related Quality of Life for heart failure patients.

Small Class Sizes and a Curriculum Designed to Train Health Economists

A major advantage of our Ph.D. program is small class sizes, which allow substantial individual attention for students. The average number of students per class is 5. Small class sizes and high quality faculty enable our students to progress faster and gain quicker access to research assistantships and internships.

By consulting health professionals and receiving feedback from internship sponsors, we continue to refine a Ph.D. program that is carefully designed to train health economists.

“The small classes and individual attention really helped me master the material. I had the opportunity to work directly with faculty on research very early in the program. I even presented my first paper in my 2nd year. I also had the opportunity to work full-time as a summer intern in a noted healthcare consulting firm after my second year, thanks to the influence and reputation of our department.”

XIAO (JIMMY) HAN, 5TH YEAR PH.D. STUDENT
“Choosing epidemiology as my PhD minor helped me understand a lot about disease etiology, risk factors, and public health prevention and intervention policies. As an economist, this was a completely new and exciting world to me. The PhD minor in epidemiology gives me a much broader context and greater institutional knowledge as I conduct economic analyses of related problems.”

RONIA HAWASH, 4TH YEAR PHD STUDENT

Generous Financial Support

The program offers generous financial support for our students. IUPUI and its IU School of Liberal Arts understand the financial burdens students undertake in continuing their studies at the graduate level, and they address that challenge through competitively-awarded fellowships and assistantships.

Easy Access to Indiana University School of Medicine and Fairbanks School of Public Health

The Indiana University School of Medicine, which is located within walking distance of the Economics Department, offers many opportunities for students in our Health Economics Ph.D. program. The IU School of Medicine has the second-largest medical student enrollment in the United States.
Indianapolis: A Major City and a Destination for World Class Learning

Indianapolis is the nation’s 13th largest city: large enough to play host to the Indianapolis 500 (the world’s largest single-day sporting event), the 2012 Super Bowl, the 2015 NCAA Final Four, the world’s largest children’s museum, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Heartland Film Festival, the Indiana Black Expo, and the Indy Jazz Fest. At the same time, Indy is small enough to display small-town charm, with vibrant cultural districts, convenient public transportation, and a strong sense of community. Widely known as the amateur sports capital of the United States, Indianapolis enjoys a low cost of living, and a revitalized downtown, and lots of attractive, well-maintained city parks.

While Indianapolis is great place to live, more important to students, it’s a great place to study. Indianapolis is the site of a major urban destination for learning: IUPUI, a unique partnership between Indiana University and Purdue University. Students receive the best of two world-class universities at a central location just west of downtown Indianapolis: less than a 25-minute drive from an international airport, and less than 90 minutes from each of its partner universities.

“We think we’ve taken the best ideas on training health economists and brought them all together.”

ANNE BEESON ROYALTY, PROFESSOR, PH.D. PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Course Curriculum

Completing the Ph.D. degree in Health Economics requires a minimum of 90 credit hours of study and a successful oral dissertation defense. Typically, it takes five years to complete the program, with formal coursework being finished in three years.

Following the first year of study, students take comprehensive examinations in microeconomic theory and econometrics. During the third year, they are required to do presentations in Health Economics. After completing all their formal coursework, students must take a qualifying examination. They are admitted to Ph.D. candidacy after passing this exam. They may then register for thesis credits while completing their dissertations.

“I like Indianapolis because of the super faculty at IUPUI, its natural beauty during all seasons, friendly people and restaurants from all over the world.”

YAN YANG, 2ND YEAR PH.D. STUDENT
Ph.D. Admission Requirements

In addition to being adequately prepared in economics, students must be well-prepared in mathematics and must get good Quantitative scores on the GRE. A detailed list of prerequisites for admission can be found at go.iu.edu/econphd.

TO APPLY (DEADLINE JANUARY 15):
www.iupui.edu/~gradoff/admissions