PhD Program

APPLICATION DEADLINE
December 1

gsb.stanford.edu/phd
In today’s complex business world, the demand for exceptional researchers and educators with a global perspective has never been greater. At Stanford Graduate School of Business, our PhD Program’s distinct academic approach is designed to enable students to excel in the future as researchers, educators, and scholars.

Each year, top business schools and universities throughout the United States and around the world seek out the newest graduates of the Stanford Graduate School of Business PhD Program to fill their faculty positions. They know they’ll find a group of innovative, committed academics ready to take on the most rigorous research agendas and challenging teaching positions.
Fields of Study and Preparation

From your first day in the program, you will focus your academic experience in one of seven distinct fields of study. All candidates are required to hold a four-year bachelor’s degree or equivalent prior to starting the program. There are no additional prerequisites or requirements for any field. The preparation listed below can be used as a guideline for starting and/or completing your first year of doctoral studies.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FIELD OF STUDY</th>
<th>PREPARATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Strong background in applied microeconomic theory, econometrics, and mathematics is desirable. Traditional accounting background such as CPA is not required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>Substantial background in economics, mathematics, mathematical reasoning, and statistical methods. Successful applicants often have majors in economics, mathematics, or related sciences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Strong background in economics, mathematics, mathematical reasoning, and statistical methods. Successful applicants often have majors in economics, finance, mathematics, or related sciences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>BEHAVIORAL: Background in psychology and experience with experimental methods and data analysis. QUANTITATIVE: Background in mathematical methods, microeconomics, econometrics, and statistics. Successful applicants are from quantitatively oriented fields like economics, computer science, or engineering and have a strong interest in marketing-related problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations, Information and Technology</td>
<td>Advanced training in relevant mathematical methods and models (e.g., advanced calculus, linear algebra, and probability). Competence in optimization, computer programming, microeconomics, and classical statistics is helpful.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Behavior</td>
<td>MICRO: Background in organizational or social psychology and experience with research methods and data analysis. MACRO: Background in disciplines such as sociology or economics is helpful. Mathematical skills at the level of one course each of calculus and linear algebra, and mathematical statistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Economics</td>
<td>Substantial background or ability in the use of analytical methods. Mathematical skill at the level of one year of calculus and one course each in linear algebra, analysis, probability, optimization, and statistics.</td>
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“I realized early in my undergraduate career that I wanted to be a professor at an elite research university, and I knew that pursuing a PhD at Stanford would enable me to achieve my goal. In the growing field of behavioral decision theory, Stanford is at the forefront of intersections between marketing, psychology, and economics. During my five years at the GSB, I have had the privilege of working with and learning from some of the best researchers in the world. I hope to inspire my students to reach their potential, as the professors at Stanford have inspired me.”

EMILY GARBINSKY, 2015 Graduate of PhD Program, Marketing

Academic Program Requirements

The faculty has established the following requirements to ensure that our graduates are thoroughly prepared to meet the highest standards of scholarship.

Coursework: Depending on your field, you might take as much as 50% of your coursework outside Stanford GSB.

Field Examinations: Demonstrate your comprehension of your field’s methodology, theoretical construction, and empirical evidence.

Summer Research Papers: During your first or second summer, you’ll engage in research with a faculty member and produce an original research paper.

Research Activities: Participate year-round in research and teaching apprenticeships, doctoral seminars, and research colloquia.

Annual Evaluations: Faculty review each student’s performance and progress, providing critical feedback that will enable you to succeed.

Advancement to Candidacy: Faculty evaluate your preparation to complete your doctoral studies and produce scholarly research.

University Oral Examination: Demonstrate your expertise in the theory and methodology of your research as well as the application and significance of the work.

Dissertation: Your dissertation will be a significant contribution in a scholarly field.
Faculty and Research
We have more than 120 faculty members at Stanford Graduate School of Business who pursue research at the leading edge of their fields. Our students develop close working relationships with faculty committed to the creation of new knowledge. As they train the next generation of researchers and teachers, our faculty take the role of mentor seriously. They will engage you in their research projects, invite you to work side by side with them as they develop and teach their courses, and support you as your own research gets off the ground.

“I have walked into JP’s office with a jumble of related research strands and left with a clear research question and a preliminary empirical strategy.”
CURRENT PHD STUDENT

Faculty Community Highlights

- Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences
- John Bates Clark Medal
- American Economic Association Distinguished Fellows
- National Academy of Sciences
- National Academy of Engineering
- Econometric Society
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Student Community*

- 25-30% Entering class
- 50% International enrollment
- 20% Majors represented
- 40% Advanced degrees

*Approximations based on recent student population
Application and Contact Information

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APPLICATION MATERIALS
Statement of Purpose
Resume or CV
Three letters of reference
GMAT or GRE score
TOEFL score (if applicable)
Uploaded unofficial transcripts
Submitted online application
Application fee

CONNECT WITH US
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