

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROSPECTUS

Admission to candidacy requires a "B" average or better in graduate coursework, passing the qualifying exam, and having an approved Ph.D. dissertation prospectus. The prospectus is a written description of the nature of the research the graduate student expects to undertake on the dissertation.

The prospectus committee will be comprised of three faculty who might also serve on the student's dissertation committee. The committee will be chosen jointly by the student and the student's dissertation advisor, who will be the chair of the committee. The chair will notify the Coordinator of Graduate Affairs of the committee. Approval of the prospectus will be based on a seminar presented to the department. The Coordinator of Graduate Affairs will announce the time and place of the seminar based on the prospectus no fewer than 10 days prior to the seminar date by sending a written announcement to all faculty and graduate students. Copies of the prospectus must be available to all graduate faculty at least 10 days prior to the seminar date.

Following the seminar, the committee may wish to discuss the dissertation topic briefly with the student. Such discussions should center on the suitability of the chosen dissertation topic. The committee may approve the prospectus, require a revision, or find the dissertation topic unsatisfactory. The student and the Coordinator of Graduate Affairs will be notified of the committee's decision in writing.

Purpose of the Prospectus

The main purpose of the prospectus is to assure the student and the faculty that the student has selected a dissertation topic which is worth doing and attainable.

Nature of the Prospectus

The prospectus will be an essay on the planned dissertation topic. The essay will emphasize the broad ideas to be pursued and why they are worth pursuing, in a concise presentation, typically of about 20 pages, and rarely if ever exceeding 30 (including references, appendixes, and other apparatuses.) The essay will describe what problem the research will address, how the research will proceed, and where the research fits relative to the writing of other economists. The prospectus should reveal knowledge of the problem, including relevant "institutions", available data, etc., but need not include technical details of how the research will be accomplished. The emphasis should be on the economic question and what resources are available to answer it and not on the answer itself.