

Ph.D. Program in Human Developmental Economics

Fall 2016

Summary

The Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development (CSHD) and the Department of Economics offer a joint Ph.D. program in Human Developmental Economics (HDE) drawing on the strengths of the two departments and recent trends and complementary advances in both disciplines. This interdisciplinary doctoral program aims to better understand human development through the study of cultural, social, emotional, economic and behavioral interactions as they contribute to socialization and decision making. This program is new within the existing CSHD Ph.D. Program as of fall, 2017.

A deep understanding of socialization and decision making requires studying their interfaces and recognizing the social contexts and interactions within them. Whereas major research initiatives by several universities and independent research organizations are bringing together researchers from different disciplines and who share interests in human developmental economics, with very few exceptions, no comparable effort has been made at building doctoral-level training programs that combine human development and economics in an explicit and systematic manner.

Rationale

The convergence of trends in the study of human development and economics suggests a substantively important and resource-generating opportunity for Tufts University to launch a multidisciplinary Ph.D. program in human developmental economics. A number of these trends and projected outcomes are:

1. The evolution of theories explaining human development in both the disciplines of economics and human development have increasingly drawn on theory and practice from both disciplines.
2. Economics has made major methodological advances in its analysis of microeconomic data that are designed to move from correlation to causation and so better elucidate the drivers of economic and social outcomes.
3. The development of very large data sets in child and human development provide opportunities for rich empirical work drawing on the methodological advances described in Item 2 above.
4. Strengths in Economics and CSHD are increasingly complementary. The two groups have collaborated productively in planning this program and have a clear vision for what the program will be.
5. We envision students being placed in academic programs such as Human Development, Education, or Public Policy and in non-academic programs such as think tanks, government programs in education, or related consulting firms, as well as in applied economics departments.
 - The Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development has had good career placements of their Ph.D. students and we expect similar placements for Ph.D. students from this program.

Criteria for Admission and Application Procedures

Those interested in applying to the Ph.D. in Human Developmental Economics can access the online application at <http://gradstudy.tufts.edu/admissions/howtoapply.htm>. Applicants should apply to the Ph.D. Program in Child Study and Human Development and check the appropriate box for the Human Developmental Economics Program. All application materials must be received by December 1st.

Prospective students are expected to have successfully completed, at the minimum, a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree at an accredited college or university. By the time of the Preliminary Review of Student Progress in the doctoral program (described below), students must demonstrate research competence. Hence, completion of a research thesis at the bachelor's or master's level is an advantage for those being considered for acceptance into the program.

Before sending an application, potential applicants should familiarize themselves with the faculty and resources of the Departments of Child Study and Human Development, Economics, and Tufts University (see below for a list of faculty in these two departments who are affiliated with the Ph.D. in Human Developmental Economics). Students generally work closely with one or two faculty mentors whose interests match those of the student. In particular, students will choose to focus their research primarily in either Child Study and Human Development or in Economics and their advisor will be in the chosen area of research. To learn about the departments and program, applicants may schedule an appointment with either of the Co-Directors of the HDE Ph.D. program (see below).

As part of the application procedure, students are expected to submit:

1. A completed online application form provided by the Office of Graduate Studies, including a listing of academic and professional work experiences.
2. A statement of career goals and research interests, citing particular reasons why the student is interested in a Ph.D. in Human Developmental Economics and the nature of the “match” between the program faculty and student interests.
3. Official transcripts of grades from undergraduate and graduate institutions where the student has studied.
4. A minimum of three letters of recommendation, at least two of which can attest to the student’s academic and research potentials.
5. Verbal, quantitative and analytic writing scores received on the Graduate Record Examination. (Although not required, test scores on either the Psychology or Economics section of the G.R.E. also may be submitted.)
6. For international students from countries where English is not the primary language, scores received on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

After student applications and accompanying materials have been processed by the Office of Graduate Studies, they are forwarded to the members of HDE Program Committee for review. Applicants being considered for admission will be asked to attend a campus interview with program faculty. Attendance at this interview is a required part of the application process, although accommodations can be made to hold video-conferencing interviews for situations

where travel would constitute a hardship. It is expected that three or fewer students will be admitted into the Ph.D. program each year.

In addition to the applicants' portfolio, the decision to admit students is based on a number of program factors:

- the number of students currently enrolled;
- availability of resources and financial assistance;
- availability of advisors to supervise the training of incoming students; and
- a match among applicants' interests, faculty interests and resources in the program.

Applicants with the best chance for acceptance are those who have a strong academic background and clear and thoughtful goals that align with the scholarly interests of one or more eligible faculty. Early review and notification may occur in the case of extremely promising candidates. Students accepted into the program will be required to respond before April 15th. If the Department has not been notified of a student's intention by that date, the position will be made available to the student next on the waiting list. All acceptances and offers of financial aid become official only when confirmed in writing by the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

HDE Program Administration (click on names to get information of fields of research)

I. Faculty

Co-Directors:

Richard Lerner, Professor, Bergstrom Chair in Applied Developmental Science, Director of Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development, Child Study and Human Development
Jeffrey Zabel, Professor, Department of Economics

Program Committee Members

Child Study and Human Development Department:

Richard Lerner, Professor

Tama Leventhal, Associate Professor

Sara Johnson, Assistant Professor

Economics Department:

Jeffrey Zabel, Professor

Daniel Richards, Professor and Department Chair,

Gilbert Metcalf, Professor and Graduate Program Director

Other Affiliated Faculty Members

Child Study and Human Development Department:

David Henry Feldman, Professor and Department Chair

Christy McWayne

Economics Department:

Yannis Ioannides, Professor, Max and Herta Neubauer Chair

Melissa McInerney, Associate Professor

Laura Gee, Assistant Professor

II. Administration

- The program will be administrated through CSHD as a special track in the CSHD doctoral program.
- Students will apply through the same channel that is available for the existing CSHD Ph.D. Program and indicate they are applying for the Ph.D. in HDE.

III. Advisors

- Upon entry into the program, one of the Co-Directors will serve as the Preliminary Advisor. The choice of Preliminary Advisor will depend on the student's academic interests.
- By the end of the second year, each student will have chosen a single Main Advisor who is a faculty member in either the CSHD or the Economics Department and who is affiliated with the HDE Program (listed above). This advisor will likely (though not necessarily) become the student's dissertation advisor. Advisors offer guidance regarding courses, field placements, internships, and the planning of dissertation research. Students are expected to actively seek out their advisors for guidance. Students may change advisors by filling out the appropriate change-of-advisor form.
- By the time of the Preliminary Review (see below), each student is required to select an additional Program Advisor from the other department (i.e. if the Main Advisor is from the CSHD Department, the additional Program Advisor must be from the Economics Department and vice versa). The additional Program Advisor must be affiliated with the HDE Program (listed above). The two Program Advisors will work in collaboration to advise the student on program matters until dissertation work is begun.
- When dissertation work is begun (officially after passing the dissertation proposal defense), the student will identify a Chairperson and members for his/her dissertation committee. The dissertation committee will consist of four persons composed of three faculty members from the CSHD and Economics Departments and an outside (of Tufts) member. A student may ask one or both of the Program Advisors to serve on his/her dissertation committee, or may select other faculty members depending upon the dissertation topic and availability of faculty for dissertation supervision.

HDE Program Requirements

I. Curriculum

Each student is required to complete a minimum of 20 course credits as part of their fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Ph.D. in Human Developmental Economics. These credits include 16 for course work; and four for the Internship. The coursework includes 9 core courses and 7 electives. Dissertation work follows the course work.

Core Courses in the Economics Department (credits in brackets):

- EC201; Probability and Statistics (fall) [1.0]
- EC202; Econometrics (spring) [1.0]
- EC203; Microeconomics I (fall) [1.0]
- EC208; Applied Econometrics (fall) - the micro half only [0.5]
- EC209; Department Seminar [0.5]

Core Courses in CSHD Department:

- CSHD 211; Contemporary and Critical Perspectives on Child Development [1.0]
- CSHD 248; Applied Developmental Science: Theoretical Foundations [1.0]
- CSHD285; Advanced Research Methods in Applied Developmental Science [1.0]
- PhD Proseminar¹; ½ credit course for each of the two semesters for the first two years in the program; the course would be jointly taught by a member of CSHD and Economics [2.0]

This coursework amounts to 9 credits for core courses. Additional courses will be electives and dissertation credits. The doctoral committee will decide for each student what the appropriate set/number of courses is.

Elective Courses in the Economics Department

- EC140; Labor Economics [1.0]
- EC192-3; Social Interactions and Social Networks [1.0]
- EC204; Microeconomics II (spring) [1.0]
-

Potential future courses include Health Economics and Economics of Education.

¹ A Proseminar is a ½ credit Pass/Fail course that it discusses issues having to do with carrying out research. It also includes outside speakers, information on professional development, e.g. submitting papers to journals, presenting work at conferences, etc. and possibly even discussion of work-life balance. For HDE students, additional monthly sessions with HDE faculty will complement the proseminar.

Elective Courses in the CSHD Department

- CD 139; The Neighborhood Context of Child and Family Well-being
- CD 247; Program Evaluation
- CD 249: Applied Multivariate Data Analysis

Other Electives

- Fletcher: EIB E247; Econometric Impact Evaluation for Development
- Independent research
- Courses at nearby institutions

Prior Course Approval

Students may receive credit for up to eight courses of graduate work completed prior to admission to the Ph.D. program and apply this to course credits for the Ph.D. degree. Acceptance of transfer credit is dependent upon approval by the Co-Directors. Application for course credit should be made before, or at the time of, the Preliminary Review. Petition for course credit for courses completed outside of the Economics or CHSD Departments must include appropriate documentation, including course syllabi and transcripts of grades received. Typically, credit will not be given for core courses taken outside of Tufts.

Elective Courses

All elective courses listed above have been pre-approved by the Program Committee. Students can petition the Program Committee for other courses at Tufts (including independent research) or courses at other institutions to be counted as elective courses.

100-level elective courses taught at Tufts will require additional work that must be explicitly detailed on the required elective petition form. The extra work will include at least three of the following five options:

1. Evaluation uses different tests appropriate for doctoral students
2. Readings from journals
3. Research paper at a suitable level of rigor
4. Additional once-a-week meeting with Ph.D. students and professor
5. Oral presentation(s) at a suitable level of rigor

Internship

Four (4) course credits of Internship are required. The duration of the internship may vary, but it typically will extend for two consecutive semesters, and it must involve at least 20 hours per week. (One course credit is awarded for each 10 hours per semester of internship experience.)

Students completing the internship are expected to work a minimum of 600 hours. These students can work in no more than two different settings. Students may complete an internship during the course of an academic year (part-time) or during a semester (full-time; working an average of 37- 38 hours per week). Generally, the internship is undertaken following completion of most of the coursework. In cases where the program advisors agree that the candidate has had extensive applied experience before enrolling in the doctoral program, an applied research (AR) internship may be undertaken. AR internships must have adequate supervision from the site and a Departmental faculty member and must be approved by the student's advisors.

Documentation of the internship: Students are expected to write a one-page statement summarizing their internship. Students are encouraged to obtain a letter from the site supervisor regarding their internship.

Dissertation Study

Dissertation study is undertaken for zero course credits. In general, the dissertation work is begun after successful completion of the course work, internship and qualifying review. When undertaking dissertation work students must register for CD 297 (fall) and CD 298 (spring). If the dissertation is not completed at the end of the semester in which a student has enrolled in CD 297 or 298, a "Y" grade will be assigned. Doctoral students continuing beyond this time must complete a petition to enroll in CD 502 FF Doctoral Continuation.

II. Preliminary Review

Students will have a Preliminary Review (PR) conference with their two Program Advisors at the end of the second year if the student entered with a master's degree or by the end of the semester following the completion of the master's degree if the student entered the program with a bachelor's degree. This meeting is intended to assess whether adequate progress has been made in the program to date and to plan for subsequent studies. In preparation for the PR conference, the student prepares a portfolio which is to be submitted to the Program Advisors.

The Preliminary Review Portfolio should contain the following:

- An updated curriculum vita, outlining experience and academic background.
- A transcript of course work completed. In the case of students who wish to transfer courses taken outside Tufts, syllabi must be included.
- A plan of study, including
 - Goals for the remainder of the program and subsequent post-doctoral career;
 - Proposals for the two Qualifying Papers (QPs) the student will undertake (see below);
 - A one-semester professional development internship experience (20 hours/week for the semester);
 - Dissertation ideas; and
 - A time table for degree completion.

- a. The qualifying papers (one that involves theoretical synthesis and/or an integrative review of literature, and the other that is empirical) are intended to demonstrate that students in the Ph.D. program have achieved a sufficiently high degree of mastery of their discipline to be ready to take on the challenges of a Ph.D. dissertation. The qualifying papers may demonstrate mastery in a number of ways, but in general they should be of professional quality, up to the standards of the program, and suitable for publication in appropriate journals or other venues (e.g., a Departmental Working Paper series within Economics) in the student's specialized area of study. A qualifying paper can be an extension of a paper from an elective course.

The reviewing faculty must have the Portfolio to review at least two weeks prior to the scheduled review date. At the PR, the student and his/her Program Advisors review the plan of study, course work completed, and other Portfolio materials. Students may be advised at this meeting to take additional course work, participate in research activity or to plan applied experiences as part of their program and in preparation for their internship, QPs, and dissertation work. A summary of the recommendations and discussion held at the PR is prepared by the student and approved by the Program Advisors. The summary is submitted with the completed Preliminary Review Certificate (you can find the form online) and a copy of the complete Portfolio to the Co-Directors of HDE Program, with a recommendation by the Program Advisors for one of the following:

- a. Pass;
- b. Pass, pending specific documentation due at a specified time;
- c. Deferred until a specified time, pending documentation;
- d. Recommend withdrawal from the program.

III. Qualifying Review

After the completion of 16 course credits, the qualifying papers and the internship, students will undergo a Qualifying Review (QR), which will entail review of their work to date, a revised goal statement, and a synopsis of their dissertation plans.

The Qualifying Review process must take place prior to the beginning of dissertation research and must be completed before a dissertation proposal will be accepted. The purpose of the Qualifying Review is to assess the student's performance in the doctoral program, and to qualify the student as a Candidate for the doctoral degree. The decision to hold the Qualifying Review is made jointly by the student and his/her Program Advisors. The goal of the Qualifying Review is to certify that students seeking the HDE Ph.D. have a breadth of knowledge in human developmental economics. This differs from the goal of the dissertation, which typically focuses on depth of knowledge in a particular subject area. The student's Qualifying Review Committee will consist of the student's Program Advisors.

To prepare for the Qualifying Review the student must submit the following materials in the Qualifying Review Portfolio:

1. The two qualifying papers that have been reviewed and approved by the student's advisors, and by other faculty members when deemed appropriate by the student's advisors. Comments made by faculty reviewers should be included with the paper (Guidelines for the Qualifying Papers are provided below). Please note that topics must be approved in writing by the student's Program Advisors and a Co-Director of the HDE Program.
2. Two or more papers from elective courses in both departments. The papers may address developmental, economic, or policy-related issues. Faculty comments on papers should be included.
3. The plan of study submitted for the Preliminary Review, with an updated statement, including:
 - a. List of all courses taken and summary of requirements met.
 - b. Description of all practical (applied) experiences, including summary of the internship.
 - c. Syllabi of courses taken outside of Tufts.
 - d. Statement of professional goals and directions.
4. A current transcript.
5. An updated curriculum vita.
6. No more than a two-page dissertation prospectus.

Students must submit copies of the materials mentioned above to his/her Qualifying Review Committee members and must schedule a meeting to review the material. The meeting typically is held between 10 and 30 days after the materials are submitted. A summary of the Qualifying Review Conference is prepared by the student and approved by the two Program Advisors. The summary is submitted with the completed Qualifying Review Certificate (you can find the form online) and a copy of the complete Portfolio to the Co-Directors of the HDE Program, with a recommendation for one of the following:

- a. Pass;
- b. Pass, pending specific documentation due at a specified time;
- c. Deferred until a specified time, pending documentation;
- d. Recommend withdrawal from the program.

All students will have a defense of their dissertation proposal. Students will focus their dissertation study in economics or human development based on the set of electives taken and the topic of their dissertation proposal.

IV. Dissertation

The Ph.D. Dissertation represents the culmination of the student's graduate program. It is intended to provide an opportunity for the student to undertake a substantial piece of independent work that will contribute to existing theory or practice in the field. The dissertation should reflect

the student's achievement of scholarly and professional capabilities and represent mastery of a well-defined research problem. Although preliminary planning should occur earlier, the Dissertation should begin only after the other requirements of the degree have been met. It is expected that many students will have a topic identified and will use their Qualifying Review Paper as a way to refine and extend their understanding of the problem they intend to pursue in the Dissertation research.

A. Dissertation Proposal and Defense

The Dissertation Proposal is the document that defines the problem to be investigated in the Dissertation. It also outlines the methods and procedures to be used in conducting the study, the techniques of analysis, and a timetable for carrying out the proposed work. The proposal serves as a contract between the student and his/her Committee. Final authority for accepting or rejecting a student's Dissertation proposal rests with the student's Dissertation Committee and occurs after the completion of the Dissertation Proposal Defense.

Assignment of a Chairperson for the Dissertation Committee is not final until the student has provided a written prospectus to the faculty member who has agreed to serve as Chair of the Committee. The student may then begin the process of selecting the three other members of the Committee in consultation with the Dissertation Committee Chair. A student should prepare a brief prospectus (less than 5 pages) which can be shared with faculty members s/he would like to have serve on the Dissertation Committee. When a student has reached an agreement with the Dissertation Committee members to serve as advisors, the student should fill out the form designed for this purpose (form can be found online). This procedure will assure coordination of the student's Dissertation Committee assignment.

It should be recognized that the preparation of a proposal is often a lengthy process, requiring several drafts and revisions. It is essential that this process be coordinated with the student's Dissertation Committee Chairperson, and to the extent possible, with Committee members as well. It should also be recognized that the proposal must be approved by the Committee after the Dissertation Proposal Defense. If necessary, the proposal must also be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects before data gathering for the Dissertation begins.

In most cases the form of the Proposal should include the following sections:

- Introduction that includes a statement of the problem to be solved/question to be answered/hypothesis to be tested;
- Review of the Literature;
- Model Section including Hypotheses, Predictions or Research Questions;
- Proposed Plans for Data Analyses and
- Implications for Further Research and for Applied Issues.

Variations of this format must be discussed and approved by the Dissertation Committee.

Under the advisement of the Chairperson for the Dissertation Committee, the student should schedule a date for the Dissertation Proposal Defense. The student should send the Dissertation Proposal to the members of the Dissertation Committee at least 2 weeks prior to this date. The defense will consist of an oral presentation of the Dissertation Proposal

B. Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

All Dissertation Proposals that involve collecting data on human subjects must be submitted to the University Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects Involved in Research (Institutional Review Board). A student may submit a proposal to the Dissertation Committee and to the University Committee on Human Subjects simultaneously. The student must obtain a certificate of approval from the University Internal Review Board (IRB) before a proposal is considered officially accepted and before beginning to gather data. Procedures for submitting an IRB application can be obtained on the University web site.

C. Conduct of the Study

Once approved, the student may begin to collect, code, analyze and interpret data for the proposed research. With assistance from Dissertation Committee members, the student is expected to carry out a study that fulfills the specifications of the proposal as approved. Any modifications in the study that depart from what has been stated within the proposal must be approved in writing by the student's Committee. The student should remain in contact with the Committee throughout the process of conducting and preparing the written Dissertation. It is advisable for the student to set up a specific periodic meeting time with the Dissertation Advisor (e.g. one a week or once every other week). In order for these meetings to be productive, it is advisable for the student to provide the Dissertation Advisor with written work prior to the meeting time.

D. Preparation of the Draft of the Dissertation

When the proposed study has been completed, it is the student's responsibility to prepare a draft of the work done. The form of the Dissertation should conform to standard guidelines for manuscripts. In the case of a non-traditional Dissertation, the draft should conform to guidelines set within the approved proposal and by the Dissertation Committee. Students should also refer to the guidelines and directives of the Tufts Graduate School of Arts and Sciences when preparing their draft.

When a written draft of the study is ready, it should be submitted to the Dissertation Committee. At least one month should be allowed for the Committee members to read the draft and respond. Reactions to the draft should be communicated to the student in writing by the Committee members. Meetings may be held when necessary to discuss revisions to the draft. The student should revise the draft to conform to the directions of the Committee and return to the Committee a final draft, again conforming both to standard guidelines and to Graduate School of Arts and Science directives for Dissertations. When the Dissertation Committee agrees that the

Dissertation is ready for defense, a meeting for the oral defense of the Dissertation will be scheduled.

E. Defense of the Dissertation

The dissertation Defense represents a doctoral student's formal entry, as a peer, into the scholarly community. Consequently, it is our community's expectation that all doctoral defenses shall be open to the entire community both within and outside Tufts University. Although the exact process for the thesis defense will vary depending on the chair of the Doctoral Thesis Committee, the general procedure shall be as follows:

1. The doctoral candidate, in collaboration with the other members of her/his Committee, shall agree upon a date, time, and location of the thesis defense.
2. The chair of the Thesis Committee should contact the CSHD graduate student liaison, or other designated Department staff member, who will then make a public announcement, by e-mail, of the thesis defense. Additionally, the doctoral candidate may also invite others whom she/he wishes to attend the defense.
3. On the day of the defense, the doctoral candidate's initial presentation shall be made before all present at the defense. Depending on the will of the Thesis Committee chair (who will consult with members of the Thesis Committee), members of the audience may ask questions. If such questions are allowed, it is the responsibility of the Committee chair to moderate the questions. Generally, questioning by the audience will proceed for no longer than 10 minutes.
4. After the general presentation, at the discretion of the Committee chair (in consultation with other members of the Thesis Committee), the audience members may be asked to leave so that the Thesis Committee may continue their conversation with the doctoral candidate. If the audience members are not required to leave, they must remain silent during the Committee questioning.
5. Audience members are required to leave when the candidate exits for committee deliberations. The purpose of the Defense is to rigorously examine the Dissertation in discussion format. Further revisions to the draft may be decided by the Examining Committee, and if so, these revisions are to be carried out by the student before the Dissertation is submitted to the Graduate School. The Chair of the Dissertation Committee is responsible for making certain that all changes specified at the Defense have been incorporated into the Dissertation in a satisfactory manner. Only when a student has successfully defended his/her dissertation and completed all revisions specified by the Committee may the Dissertation be considered complete. Successful completion of the Defense and Dissertation leads to the signing by the Examining Committee of a "Certificate of Fitness" statement (included in the GSAS Guide for Graduate Students) indicating that the student has fulfilled the requirements of the Dissertation for the Ph.D. degree.
6. The Dissertation, once fully approved, is submitted by the student to the Graduate School electronically.

F. Conferral of Degree

When the degree work has been completed, the student must complete a degree sheet listing all courses. The student should then obtain his/her Advisor's signature on the Degree Sheet, and submit final documents to the Co-Chairs. These forms confirm the completion of course work leading to the degree of Ph.D. The student's name will be placed on the list of those graduating at the next scheduled date for graduation. Degrees are conferred at several times during the year. Students should refer to the Graduate School Calendar for information on due dates for submission of final materials for graduation. Graduation ceremonies are held in May of each year. At this time, the student, accompanied to the stage by his/her Dissertation Advisor, will receive the doctoral hood, which is part of the academic regalia, and the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy will be conferred.