

New Program Planning Summary

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

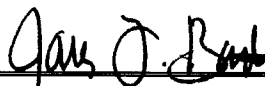
REQUESTING TO OFFER A NEW PROGRAM

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
ECONOMICS**

Submitted to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

College of Business and Behavioral Science
Clemson University

May 1, 2008



James F. Barker, FAIA
President
Clemson University

PROGRAM PLANNING SUMMARY

New Graduate Program: PhD in Economics

Currently, the John E. Walker Department of Economics has administrative authority for two graduate programs, the M.A. in Economics and the Ph.D. in Applied Economics. The Ph.D. in Applied Economics has been jointly managed by the Department of Economics and the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics (formerly the Department of Agricultural Economics) since 1984.

We propose that a second degree – the Ph.D. in Economics – be created to improve recruitment of students and placement of graduates that currently study for the Ph.D. in Applied Economics under supervision of faculty in the Department of Economics. The new degree program will enhance the brand of Clemson's Economics Ph.D.s without altering the cost structure of doctoral study in economics at Clemson. The Department of Economics and the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics have made a commitment in writing to maintain the efficient delivery of shared course content, student advising, and administration that exists under the current Ph.D. in Applied Economics.

The result is that Clemson would offer two PhD degrees, one in Economics (CIP code 450601) and the current PhD in Applied Economics (CIP code 010103).

Proposed date of implementation.

December 2008

All students who are currently studying under the primary supervision of faculty in the Department of Economics will benefit from being awarded the degree that most accurately reflects their expertise and course of study. Student recruitment for Fall 2009 will be enhanced by our ability to advertise the Ph.D. in Economics.

Justification of need for the proposed program.

Recruitment

Not having an accurate degree name reduces our ability to market the program to prospective students. The applicant pool is not as deep, and students on the margin can be persuaded to go elsewhere by competitors with the proper degree name attached to their program, such as NC State, UGA, UNC, and UVA.

Department Reputation and Job Placement

Attaching the correct degree to the department will add one more brick to the foundation as we build our academic reputation. The fact that administrative authority for the current Ph.D. resides in the Department of Economics is not known outside the university. Having the Ph.D. visibly associated with the Department will increase its stature and prominence in national rankings.

In placing students, academic reputation of the department is a central element in having faculty at peer institutions to consider your Ph.D. students as prospective colleagues. Without this reputation, good students simply go unnoticed.

University Level Reputation

The field of economics is at once a rapidly developing social science and a classical component of the university canon. As such, economics is a key discipline in producing academic reputation for a university. There is no Top 20 Public University with a Ph.D. program in an economics-related field that does not offer the Ph.D. in Economics. Moreover, *every* Top 20 institution that offers a Ph.D. degree in either Agricultural or Applied Economics also offers the Ph.D. in Economics.

Anticipated program demand and productivity.

The Department of Economics currently admits approximately 15 students into the Ph.D. program in Applied Economics each year. These are among the very top Ph.D. students recruited to Clemson across all programs, based on the GRE scores of admitted students as reported by the Graduate School. The program is productive. Students graduating with the Ph.D. under supervision of the department have served on the faculties of Chicago, Harvard, and Stanford, and have accepted private and public sector positions at institutions such as Analysis Group, the Federal Trade Commission and the Rand Corporation.

Assessment of extent to which the proposed program duplicates existing programs in the state.

The Ph.D. in Economics is currently offered by the Department of Economics at the University of South Carolina. Adding the degree to be offered by the Department of Economics at Clemson from the Ph.D. in Applied Economics to the Ph.D. in Economics will not affect resource expenditures at either Clemson or South Carolina. This "re-branding" of a currently existing program will have its primary effect on the ability of the Department of Economics to recruit Ph.D. students from out of state, and to place its graduates at institutions outside the state of South Carolina. Recruitment and placement within the state is not impeded to the same extent as in the national market, since students at faculty at South Carolina institutions have a high degree of familiarity with Clemson's program.

The new degree will not affect resource expenditure or allocation. No new course offerings, faculty or administrative hires are required. Both the Department of Economics and the Department of Applied Economics will continue to operate in the same manner as present, albeit with the advantages of better recruitment of students and ultimate placement that come from attaching the Ph.D. in Economics to the John E. Walker Department of Economics. Adding the Ph.D. in Economics will increase the productivity of efforts currently underway, but will not add expenditures that are otherwise duplicated on campus or elsewhere in the state.

Relationship of the proposed program to existing programs at the proposing institution.

Related programs exist in the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics, and Policy Studies. Students in these departments in particular, along with students in Mathematical Sciences and Management, take Ph.D. courses taught by faculty in the Department of Economics. As stated above, synergies that currently exist in these relationships will be maintained.

Joint management of Ph.D. programs between Economics Departments and Departments of Applied Economics or Agriculture and Resource Economics is quite common. Leading examples include Iowa State, Michigan State, North Carolina State, the University of California, and the University of Wisconsin. In each case, extensive use of faculty in the Department of Economics is made by students studying in the Applied or Agricultural Programs, particularly in the core course sequences in microeconomic theory and econometrics. This takes place under Clemson's current program structure, as in the institutions listed above, and will be preserved in Clemson's two degree model.

Relationship of the proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation.

Our graduates are and have been employed at economics lecturers and professors numerous universities throughout the state and region: Anderson University, Benedict College, Charleston Southern, Claflin College, Coastal Carolina, Lander, Macon State, UGA, UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro, USC Upstate, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Wingate, and Wofford. Continued development of the Ph.D. program in Economics will enhance its reputation and lead to greater inter-institutional cooperation. Opportunities to take advantage of synergies between Economics at Clemson and institutions such as USC and UGA are under consideration, independent of the new degree.

Total new costs.

No new costs will result from adding the option of the Ph.D. in Economics offered by the Department of Economics. No new course offerings, faculty or administrative positions are required.