The Economics Department is situated within one of the world's most youthful and vibrant universities, the University of California, Los Angeles. Founded in 1919, UCLA first developed into a major university in the 1950's. After so short a history, the university was ranked second in the United States among public research universities by the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils in 1982. Thirty-one of its Ph.D. programs are currently ranked in the top 20 in their field—third best in the nation.

The Department includes internationally recognized scholars in economic theory, econometrics, and all the major applied fields. These outstanding scholars form one of the foremost departments of economics in the world. Some of our esteemed faculty have included Lloyd Shapley, Professor of Economics and Mathematics, who was co-recipient of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economics for his seminal work on both cooperative and non-cooperative game theory.

Some of our graduates have achieved great prominence, such as William Sharpe, who earned both his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees at UCLA, and was co-recipient of the 1990 Nobel Prize in Economics for his work on the capital asset pricing model.

The Ph.D. Program in Economics at UCLA prepares students for careers as economists in academia, business, and government. The program combines rigorous work in economic theory and careful study of real-world problems and institutions. Graduates from this program work at major universities around the world, national and international government agencies, banks, research centers, and in private businesses.

The Ph.D. is the degree is awarded to students who demonstrate professional competence by passing written qualifying exams and by completing a major piece of individual research (the Ph.D. dissertation).  
Preparation for the qualifying exams through coursework and independent study occupies most student time for the first two years. Thereafter the focus shifts to independent research and finally to the writing of a Ph.D. dissertation. Students are typically able to earn their degree within five to six years.

Research in progress by our graduate students as well as our faculty is presented at workshops that meet weekly throughout the academic year. Currently, the Department has workshops in Theory and Mathematical Economics, International and Development Economics, Labor and Population Economics, Business Organization and Regulation Economics, Economic History, Econometrics, and Monetary Theory.

We invite you to visit [Economics Ph.D. Program](http://www.econ.ucla.edu/graduate/) to learn more about our world-class program!