

ACCOUNTING, PHD

The Accounting PhD program trains students to do rigorous research in accounting, a specialized area of financial economics. The program is highly analytical and quantitative. We look for strong undergraduate preparation in microeconomics and mathematics, while some prior accounting or finance training at the undergraduate or graduate level is an advantage. Institutional understanding of how accounting information is used by capital market participants and/or within firms is useful and best obtained through relevant work experience, but is not required of applicants.

Close working relationships with faculty members provide an excellent learning experience while at Wharton and can continue throughout the student's career. Our program provides students with opportunities to interact with faculty and get started on relevant research early in the program. Required research elements include the first-year research assistantship and the first and second year summer research papers.

For more information: <https://doctoral.wharton.upenn.edu/programs-of-study/accounting/>

View the University's Academic Requirements for PhD Degrees (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-phd/>).

Required Courses

The course of study for the Ph.D. in Accounting requires the completion of 16 graduate course units.¹

Code	Title	Course Units
Core Requirements		
Complete the following:		9
<i>Accounting</i>		
ACCT 910	Accounting Theory Research	
ACCT 921	Empirical Research in Accounting I	
ACCT 922	Empirical Research in Accounting II	
ACCT 930	Empirical Design in Accounting Research	
<i>Economics</i>		
ECON 681	Microeconomic Theory	
ECON 682	Game Theory and Applications.	
<i>Econometrics/Statistics</i> ²		
STAT 515	Advanced Statistical Inference I	
STAT 516	Advanced Statistical Inference II	
<i>Finance</i>		
FNCE 911	Financial Economics	
Additional Coursework		
Select 7 course units of electives:		7
<i>Accounting Electives</i>		
ACCT 981	Workshop Colloquium I	
ACCT 982	Workshop Colloquium II	
<i>Common Finance Electives</i>		
BEPP 911	Empirical Public Policy	
BEPP 952	Economics and Law	
FNCE 912	Corporate Finance and Financial Institutions	

FNCE 921	Introduction to Empirical Methods in Finance
FNCE 923	Financial Economics Under Imperfect Information
FNCE 926	Empirical Methods in Corporate Finance
<i>Other Electives</i>	
MGMT 970	Applied Methods for Management Research
MLA 541	Academic Writing and Research Design in the Arts and Sciences
OIDD 912	Introduction to Optimization
Total Course Units	16

- Students must pass all required courses with a grade of B- or better.
- Students may, with prior approval of the Accounting PhD coordinator, satisfy this requirement by taking ECON 705/706. In extraordinary cases, with approval of the Accounting PhD coordinator, a student may satisfy the Econometrics/Statistics requirement with other course sequences.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2020 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Sample Plan of Study

Code	Title	Course Units
First Year		
<i>Summer</i>		
	Basic Mathematics for Economists	
<i>Fall</i>		
ECON 681	Microeconomic Theory	
FNCE 911	Financial Economics	
STAT 515	Advanced Statistical Inference I	
	Econometrics/Statistics Elective	
<i>Spring</i>		
ACCT 921	Empirical Research in Accounting I	
ACCT 930	Empirical Design in Accounting Research (when offered)	
ECON 682	Game Theory and Applications.	
STAT 516	Advanced Statistical Inference II	
Research Assistantship		
First Year Summer paper - Proposal Due: June 15th		
First Draft Due: September 15th		
Second Year		
<i>Fall</i>		
ACCT 910	Accounting Theory Research	
	Finance Elective	
	Econometrics/Statistics Elective	
	Economics Elective	
<i>Spring</i>		
ACCT 922	Empirical Research in Accounting II	

ACCT 930 Empirical Design in Accounting Research
(when offered)

Two Electives

Field Exam - May of Second Year

Theory and Empirical sections required for all students

Second Year Summer paper - Proposal due June 15th

First Draft Due: September 15th

Third Year

ACCT 981 Workshop Colloquium I
& ACCT 982 and Workshop Colloquium II

Directed Reading & Research

Admission to Candidacy

Formulation of Research Topic

Fourth Year and Beyond

Continued Research

Oral Exam

Dissertation