



The Department of Economics at Boston College is an exciting community of scholars from many countries who pursue applied and theoretical research on the pressing economic and social issues that face the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The doctoral program is designed to train economists for careers in teaching and research by providing strong backgrounds in economic theory, quantitative research methods and applied fields.

Boston College provides considerable intellectual leadership to the economics profession. The economics faculty includes 40 full-time positions and continues to grow. Faculty allocate their time between research and teaching in undergraduate and doctoral programs as well as participating in the wider intellectual life of the University, the Boston area and the world.

The Boston College Department of Economics is ranked between 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> among U.S. economics departments according to the Combes-Linnemer worldwide rankings, and our Ph.D. program is ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in the *U.S. News & World Report 2022* peer assessment survey, while the department is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in macroeconomics.

The Boston College economics program is STEM-qualified in the field of Quantitative Economics and Econometrics. With University approval and support, we are on a growth path aimed at achieving a top 25 ranking among U.S. economics departments. Recent hires include distinguished econometricians, macroeconomists, economic theorists and applied economists, adding to the established strength of the department in these fields.

The graduate program in economics is dedicated to training full-time Ph.D. students for careers in teaching and research. The program provides students with strong backgrounds in economic theory, quantitative research methods and applied fields. Requirements include course work, comprehensive examinations, a doctoral dissertation and a one-year residence requirement.

The program admits about 12 to 15 new students per year. The size of the program permits the department to offer a broad range of courses while at the same time enabling students to receive significant individual attention. In addition to core courses in economic theory and quantitative methods, the program offers courses in advanced micro and macro theory, econometric theory, applied econometrics, international trade, empirical international finance, topics in international macroeconomics, topics in international economic policy, monetary economics, labor economics, industrial organization, and finance.

Boston College's proximity to Cambridge and Boston make it one of the premier research centers in the Northeast. The program draws students from over 50 countries and 50 states.

Relevant departments at Boston College

## Ph.D. Program

The requirements for the Ph.D. fall into four basic categories: course work, comprehensive examinations, the dissertation and a residence requirement.

### COURSE WORK

The course requirements consist of a seven-course core curriculum and eight electives. The standard program for meeting these requirements is:

#### Year 1

Fall	Spring
Microeconomic Theo <sup>y</sup> . I	Microeconomic Theo <sup>y</sup> . II
Macroeconomic Theo <sup>y</sup> . I	Macroeconomic Theo <sup>y</sup> . II
Math for Economi	Economic Method
Statistics	

#### Year 2

Fall	Spring
4 Elective	4 Elective

### COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

All students are required to pass written comprehensive examinations in microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory and two of the following fields:

- ❖ Advanced Macro and Monetary Economics
- ❖ Advanced Micro Theory
- ❖ Econometrics
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Industrial Organization
- ❖ International Finance and Macroeconomics
- ❖ International Trade and Political Economy
- ❖ Labor Economics

### DISSERTATION

The third year of study is devoted to the formulation and development of a thesis topic. All students in the third through fifth years are required to regularly attend and actively participate in the department's Thesis Workshop, which meets weekly during the academic year. Students are required to make one presentation each semester of their third, fourth and fifth years. Each Ph.D. student must have a dissertation abstract and a dissertation proposal on file with the department. Both the abstract and the proposal must be signed by two faculty members. The approved abstract must be on file no later than April 1 of the third year. The approved proposal must be on file no later than October 1 of the fourth year.

The thesis is written under the supervision of a committee comprising at least three faculty (a chairperson and two members). The thesis is approved

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Professor

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Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- International Economics
- Economic History

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ "Short Run Gravity" (with Y.V. Yotov). *Journal of International Economics* 126 (2020): 32-50.
- ❖ "Transitional Growth and Trade with Frictions: A Structural Estimation Framework" (with M. Larch and Y.V. Yotov). *The Economic Journal* (2020).
- ❖ "Dark Costs, Missing Data: Shedding Some Light on Services Trade" (with I. Borchert, A. Mattoo and Y.V. Yotov). *European Economic Review* 105 (2018): 193-214.
- ❖ "Gravity with Scale Economies" (with M. Vesselovsky and Y.V. Yotov). *Journal of International Economics* 100 (2016): 174-93.
- ❖ "Terms of Trade and Global Efficiency Effects of Free Trade Agreements, 1990-2002" (with Y.V. Yotov). *Journal of International Economics* 98 (2016): 279-98.

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Professor

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Ph.D., Harvard University

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susanto.basu@bc.edu

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Macroeconomics
- Monetary Economics
- Productivity

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ "Productivity and the Welfare of Nations" (with L. Pascali, F. Schiantarelli and L. Serven). *Journal of the European Economic Association* (forthcoming).
- ❖ "Are Price-Cost Markups Rising in the United States? A Discussion of the Evidence." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33 (Summer 2019): 3-22.
- ❖ "Uncertainty Shocks in a Model of Effective Demand" (with B. Bundick). *Econometrica* 85(3) (2017): 937-58.
- ❖ "Allocative and Remitted Wages: New Facts and Challenges for Keynesian Models" (with C. House). In *Handbook of Macroeconomics*, Volume 2A, eds. J.B. Taylor and H. Uhlig. North Holland, 2016.

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Professor of Economics and Social Work

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Ph.D., University of Michigan

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Applied Econometrics
- Public Health
- Financial Economics

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ Environmental Econometrics Using Stata" (with S. Hurn). *Directions in Environmental Economics and Policy* 20(2)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ "Pathways of Persuasion" (with P Niehaus). *Games and Economic Behavior* 124 (2020): 239-53.
- ❖ "Liquidity A ects Job Choice: Evidence from Teach For America" (with J. Conlon, C. Featherstone and J. Kessler). *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134 (2019): 2203-36.
- ❖ "Moral Perceptions of Advised Actions" (with A. Gotthard-Real and P.U. Javierana). *Management Science* 65 (2019): 3469-70.
- ❖ "The Size of the LGBT Population and the Magnitude of Anti-Gay Sentiment are Substantially Underestimated" (with K. Co man and K. Marzilli-Ericson). *Management Science* 63 (2017): 3168-86.
- ❖ "Can Social Information A ect What Job You Choose and Keep?" (with C. Featherstone and J. Kessler). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 9 (2017): 96-117.

Professor

Ph.D., Brown University

donald.cox@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Economics of Intergenerational Transfers
- Labor Economics

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ "Paternal Provisioning Results from Ecological Change" (with I. Alger, P. Hooper, J. Stieglitz and H. Kaplan). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117 (2020): 10746-54.
- ❖ "The Evolution of Altruistic Preferences: Mothers Versus Fathers" (with I. Alger). *Review of Economics of the Household* 11 (2013): 421-46.
- ❖ "Intergenerational Transfers." In *Encyclopedia of Life Course and Human Development*, eds. M.E. Hughes, A. Pienta and R. Crosnoe. Macmillan Reference USA, 2009.
- ❖ "Extended Family and Kinship Networks: Economic Insights and Evolutionary Directions" (with M. Fafchamps). In *Handbook of Development Economics*, Vol. 4, eds. T.P. Schultz and J. Strauss. North Holland, 2008.
- ❖ "Biological Basics and the Economics of the Family." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21 (2007): 91-108.

Professor

Ph.D., Princeton University

mehmet.ekmekci@bc.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Game Theory
- Mechanism Design

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ "Manipulated Electorates and Information Aggregation" (with S. Lauer mann). *The Review of Economic Studies* 87 (2020): 997-1033.
- ❖ "Reputation in the Long-Run with Imperfect Monitoring" (with A. Atakan). *Journal of Economic Theory* 157 (2015): 553-605.
- ❖ "Auctions, Actions and the Failure of Information Aggregation" (with A. Atakan). *The American Economic Review* 104 (2014): 104-07 /CS0 cs 1 scn /GS1 gs /C2\_0 1 Tf 0 35 >>BDC /CS0 cs 1 scn /GS1

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Assistant Professor

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Ph.D, Harvard University

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Ph.D, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ “How to Pay for Social Security’s Missing Trust Fund?” (with W. Hou and G.T. Sanzenbacher). *Journal of Pension Economics & Finance* (2021): 1-15.
- ❖ “How Best to Annuitize Defined Contribution Assets?” (with G. Wettstein and W. Hou). *Journal of Risk and Insurance* (2020): 1-25.
- ❖ “Are Homeownership Patterns Stable Enough to Tap Home Equity?” (with A.N. Walters, A. Belbase and W. Hou). *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing* 17 (2020): 1-11.
- ❖ “What Factors Explain the Decline in Widowed Women’s Poverty?” (with G.T. Sanzenbacher and A. Zulkarnain). *Demography* 57 (2020): 1881-1902.
- ❖ Participation and Pre-Retirement Withdrawals in Oregon’s Auto-IRA” (with L.D. Quinby, W. Hou, A. Belbase, and G.T. Sanzenbacher). *The Journal of Retirement* 8 (2020): 8-21.

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Associate Professor

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Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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robert.murphy@bc.edu

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#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Macroeconomics
- International Economics

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ “Can the Phillips Curve Explain Inflation Over the Past Half Century?” *International Advances in Economic Research* 25 (2019): 137-49.
- ❖ *Instructor’s Resources for Macroeconomics* (10<sup>th</sup> edition) by N.G. Mankiw. Worth (2019).
- ❖ “Rational Bias in Inflation Expectations” (with A. Rohde). *Eastern Economic Journal* 44 (2018): 153-71.
- ❖ “Explaining Inflation in the Aftermath of the Great Recession.” *Journal of Macroeconomics* 40 (2014): 228-44.
- ❖ *Instructor’s Resources for Macroeconomics and the Financial System* by N.G. Mankiw and L. Ball. Worth, 2011.

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Assistant Professor

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Ph.D. 1983, Boston College

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Professor

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Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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joseph.quinn@bc.edu

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Economics of Aging
- Public Policy
- Microeconomics

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



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Uni e` i . of Dela`a`e

Uni e` i . of D`ham

Uni e` i . of F`ankf` ,  
Ge`man.

Uni e` i . of Geo`gia

Uni e` i . of Gla`go`

Uni e` i . of In`na`ional  
B`ine and Economic ,  
Beijing

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Uni e` i . of Leice`e`

Uni e` i . of Li`e`pool

Uni e` i . of Ma`.land

Uni e` i . of Ne` So`h  
Wale

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W`han Uni e` i .

ZEW Leibni`z Cen`te  
fo`E`ropean Economic  
Re`ea`ch, Uni e` i . of  
Mannheim

**NONACADEMIC  
PLACEMENTS**

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**B**oston College is located on the edge of one of the world's most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, nance, research and education.

#### JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

#### MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART

Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the Brighton campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

#### CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a "Fall Teaching Orientation" workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher

learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

#### MARGOT CONNELL RECREATION CENTER

The Margot Connell Recreation Center redefines the future of fitness and recreation at Boston College. The 244,000-square-foot, four-story structure offers our community an inspired space to play, pursue sports, gather with friends and work out. This facility includes a fitness center, rock climbing wall, jogging track, aquatics center, wood-floor basketball courts, tennis courts, multi-activity courts, multi-purpose rooms for spin, yoga and fitness classes, and so much more.

#### BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER

The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals and online databases.

## Admission Requirements

The application deadline for fall admission is January 2. Please visit [bc.edu/gsas](http://bc.edu/gsas) for detailed information on how to apply.

### Application Requirements include:

- ❖ **Application Form:** Submitted online, via the GSAS website.

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- ❖ **Application Fee:** \$75, non-refundable.

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- ❖ **Abstract of Courses Form:** A concise overview of background and related course completed in an intended field of proposed area of study.

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- ❖ **Official Transcripts:** Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferred from all post-secondary institutions attended.

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- ❖ **GRE General Test:** Official computerized for all applicants.

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- ❖ **Three Letters of Recommendation:** From professional sources. It is highly advisable to have at least one letter from an academic source.

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- ❖ **Statement of Purpose:** A brief (1-2 page) discussion of an applicant's preparation, motivation and goal for his/her proposed course of study.

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- ❖ **Proof of English Proficiency** (international only) Official TOEFL/IELTS computerized accepted.

academic loads. Teaching assistants supervise discussion sessions in introductory undergraduate courses, undergraduate statistics and econometrics, and some Ph.D. courses as well. Teaching fellows teach their own sections of undergraduate courses.

An appointment as a teaching assistant or teaching fellow requires fluency in English. Students who enter

## Financial Assistance

### DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The Department of Economics annually awards approximately 25 graduate assistantships to first- and second-year Ph.D. students, and 40 teaching positions to third-, fourth- and fifth-year students. For the first five years in the program, all graduate students receive an annual stipend, which is currently \$27,500, and a full-tuition scholarship to cover the cost of all approved coursework. Graduate assistants are responsible for up to 10 hours per week of research assistance or grading for individual faculty members, while carrying full

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