

HUMAN ECOLOGY: CONSUMER BEHAVIOR AND FAMILY ECONOMICS, PHD

This is a named option within the Human Ecology, PhD. (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/human-ecology-school-wide/human-ecology-phd/>)

The Department of Consumer Science develops and disseminates information on the ways in which the interactions among consumers, business, and government can enhance the interests and well-being of consumers, families, and communities. The program focuses on various dimensions of well-being including economic/financial security, consumer empowerment, health, food security, housing security, sustainability, and the public policy that affects those dimensions of well-being. The program is interdisciplinary; current faculty have degrees in diverse fields including economics, marketing, sociology, retailing, social work, and consumer science. Some faculty have joint appointments with Cooperative Extension, providing students with opportunities for training in outreach and applied research. PhD students work closely with faculty members, often collaborating on research and outreach programs. All PhD students must complete core courses in consumer behavior, family economics, and research methods.

Students enrolled in one of the Human Ecology PhD program named options have the opportunity to earn the Human Ecology MS: Human Ecology Research (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/human-ecology-school-wide/human-ecology-ms/human-ecology-human-ecology-research-ms/>) degree along the way to the PhD upon successful completion of coursework and research.

This is a multi-disciplinary degree program. Students will undertake research on consumer decision-making affecting the social and economic well-being of individuals and families. The goal of this program is to prepare students for the following types of job placements:

1. Tenure-track academic faculty positions, primarily in other schools of human ecology, consumer science, or related units;
2. Research administration positions in government, non-tenure academic units, nonprofit organizations, think tanks and related entities; and,
3. Applied consumer research in the public and private sectors, including market research, policy research, and consulting.

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the**

Graduate School as well as the program(s). Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Applicants are expected to have taken coursework in statistics equivalent to the following courses: SOC/C&E SOC 361 and SOC 362. If they have not, applicants are expected to complete these courses during their graduate degree.

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Funding opportunities for Human Ecology graduate students are available and made possible, in large part, by generous donations to SoHE. Every year, these funds are used to fund teaching or project assistantships, award academic excellence scholarships, and provide students doing their master's or doctoral research or final MFA project with conference travel scholarships and graduate research scholarships. See more funding information for the School of Human Ecology on our program website (<https://grad.humanecology.wisc.edu/funding/>) and enrollment requirements for funding eligibility in our handbook (<https://wisc.pb.unizin.org/sohegrad/chapter/enrollment-requirements-2/>).

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>).

guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiestext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	n/a
Assessments and Examinations	Doctoral students are required to take a comprehensive preliminary/oral examination after they have cleared their record of all Incomplete and In Progress grades (other than research and thesis). Deposit of the doctoral dissertation in the Graduate School is required.
Language Requirements	Contact the program for information on any language requirements.
Graduate School Breadth Requirement	Students are not required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate but may pursue one if they choose.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Human Ecology Core Courses		
INTER-HE 792	Theories and Perspectives in Human Ecology	2
INTER-HE 793	Research Methods	3
INTER-HE 801	Special Topics in Human Ecology (Professional Development Seminar)	1
Consumer Science Core Courses		
CNSR SCI 748	The Economic Organization of the Household	3
CNSR SCI 768	Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Science	3
CNSR SCI 778	Causal Models in Household and Consumer Research	3
CNSR SCI 888	Advanced Consumer Behavior	3
Consumer Science Graduate Workshop		
Offered every semester. Students are required to take 2 credits over the course of their program.		2
CNSR SCI 920	Consumer Science Graduate Workshop	
Additional Consumer Science Courses		
Complete at least 3 of the courses listed. These courses are offered every 1-3 years.		9
CNSR SCI 775	Household Finance and Well-Being	
CNSR SCI 820	Health and Financial Well-Being	
CNSR SCI 830	Families and Households in Communities	
CNSR SCI 851	Measuring Household and Community Well-Being	
CNSR SCI 852	Advanced Consumer Policy	
Policy Breadth Courses		
Complete 2 courses for a total of 6 credits from the list below.		6
CNSR SCI 930	Seminar in Family Economic Policy	
ECON/ POP HLTH 848	Health Economics	
HDFS 765	Families & Poverty	
PUB AFFR/ POLI SCI/ URB R PL 874	Policy-Making Process	
PUBLHLTH 792	Public Health Policy and Politics	
PUB AFFR 974	Topics in Public Affairs (Aging and Public Policy)	
SOC WORK 950	PhD Proseminar (Disciplinary Perspectives on Social Policy)	
URB R PL/ POLI SCI/ PUB AFFR 874	Policy-Making Process	
Methods Breadth Courses		
Select 1 course from at least 4 of the following 6 areas: research design, demography, survey design, qualitative, econometrics, and cost benefit. Additional methods areas may be reviewed and approved by the faculty advisor and the CBE Graduate Program Committee (GPC).		12

Research Design

ED PSYCH 762	Introduction to the Design of Educational Experiments
GEN BUS 740	Experiments and Causal Methods for Business Insights
R M I 660	Risk Analytics and Behavioral Science
SOC WORK/ ED PSYCH 945	Evaluation Research

Demography

SOC 674	Demographic Techniques I
SOC 756	Demographic Techniques II

Survey Design

ED PSYCH/ ELPA 827	Surveys and Other Quantitative Data Collection Strategies
SOC 751	Survey Methods for Social Research
SOC 752	Measurement and Questionnaires for Survey Research

Qualitative Methods

ED PSYCH/ COUN PSY/ CURRIC/ ED POL/ELPA/ RP & SE 719	Introduction to Qualitative Research
JOURN 812	Qualitative Communication Research Methods
SOC 754	Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology
SOC/ ED POL 955	Seminar-Qualitative Methodology
SOC WORK 949	Proseminar (Qualitative Research Methods)

Econometrics

A A E 636	Applied Econometric Analysis I
A A E 637	Applied Econometric Analysis II
A A E 722	Machine Learning in Applied Economic Analysis
A A E 737	Applied Econometric Analysis III
ECON 703	Mathematical Economics I
ECON 709	Economic Statistics and Econometrics I
ECON 710	Economic Statistics and Econometrics II
ECON 715	Econometric Methods
ECON 717	Applied Econometrics
ECON 899	Recent Advances in Economics (Topics in Health Economics or other topics)
POP HLTH/ B M I 552	Regression Methods for Population Health

Cost Benefit

POP HLTH/ I SY E 875	Cost Effectiveness Analysis in Health and Healthcare
PUB AFFR/ A A E/ENVIR ST/ POP HLTH 881	Benefit-Cost Analysis

POP HLTH/
A A E/ENVIR ST/
PUB AFFR 881

Research & Thesis and/or Independent Study

Required during the fourth year only. 4

CNSR SCI 990	Research and Thesis
CNSR SCI 999	Independent Study

Total Credits 51

POLICIES**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES**PRIOR COURSEWORK****Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions**

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer up to 18 credits of graduate coursework taken at other institutions. Prior coursework taken at other institutions may not be used to satisfy the minimum graduate residence credit requirement. Credits earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree are not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer up to 7 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above from a UW-Madison or from another institution's undergraduate degree; undergraduate courses must be numbered 700 or above to satisfy the minimum graduate coursework requirement. No undergraduate coursework may count toward the graduate residence requirement.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer up to 9 University Special student credits of coursework numbered 300 or above toward the minimum degree credit requirement. These credits are not allowed to satisfy the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken in coursework numbered 700 or above or are taken to meet the requirements of a capstone certificate and has the "Grad 50%" attribute. Credits earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree are not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

The School of Human Ecology Graduate Program Handbook (<https://wisc.pb.unizin.org/sohegrad/chapter/conduct-expectations/>) outlines the conduct expectations and grievance process.

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)

- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The School of Human Ecology Graduate Program values the professional development of graduate students and provides financial awards to those who are invited to present at professional conferences/exhibits. The purpose of the support is to encourage participation in professional development, scholarly research, and/or creative endeavor and to help cover expenses not covered by other sources. Students may receive a maximum award of \$650 for travel (\$750 for international travel) to support conference participation in a single academic year. Students are encouraged to seek conference and travel funding from the Graduate School as a first step and apply for supplemental funds through SoHE as needed.

In addition, each academic department within the School of Human Ecology may offer additional professional development grant opportunities. See Programming (<https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/#programming>) and the Events Calendar (<https://grad.wisc.edu/uw-events/>) for the most up-to-date information on professional development opportunities.