



ANALYSIS

Graduate education in ecological economics

John M. Polimeni*

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Classroom Building, Albany College of Pharmacy, 106 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, United States

Received 13 June 2003; received in revised form 20 September 2004; accepted 24 September 2004

Abstract

Interest in graduate education in ecological economics is increasing. However, no formal plan of study for a PhD in ecological economics has been disseminated. The lack of a formal plan is problematic as the field of ecological economics matures, interest grows and new programs are being developed. This paper attempts to fill a void by creating a program of study addressing the proficiencies a graduate student in ecological economics should have upon completion of his/her PhD based on the US educational system. The plan of study presented in this paper has been developed to make the graduate of an ecological economics program as competitive on the labor market as students awarded traditional economics degrees. The plan I describe is created to meet the requirements necessary for a PhD in ecological economics. Further, fields of specialization are suggested to complement the core of an ecological economics program, to enhance the education process and to give the student with an ecological economics degree a higher level of marketability.

© 2004 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Ecological economics; Education; Graduate training

1. Introduction

As ecological economists, we should have an interest in the process and development of a curriculum for graduate education within the discipline. Graduate school plays a vital role in economic discourse by certifying economists as professionals, establishing economists' view of argumentation and guiding them to what is important to study and what is

not (Colander and Klammer, 1987). What economists do is what they were trained to do in their graduate programs (Hansen, 1991). Therefore, a well formulated course of study is necessary.

However, other than anecdotal information, no formal plan of study for a PhD in ecological economics has been disseminated. The lack of a formal plan is problematic as the field of ecological economics matures, interest grows and new programs are being developed. This paper attempts to fill a void by creating a program of study addressing the proficiencies a graduate student in ecological economics should have upon completion

* Tel.: +1 518 445 7384; fax: +1 518 445 7382.

E-mail address: polimenj@acp.edu.

of his/her PhD. The plan of study presented here (Fig. 1), based on the U.S. standard of 60 credits beyond a masters degree, is developed to make the graduate of an ecological economics program as competitive on the labor market as students awarded traditional economics degrees. The five

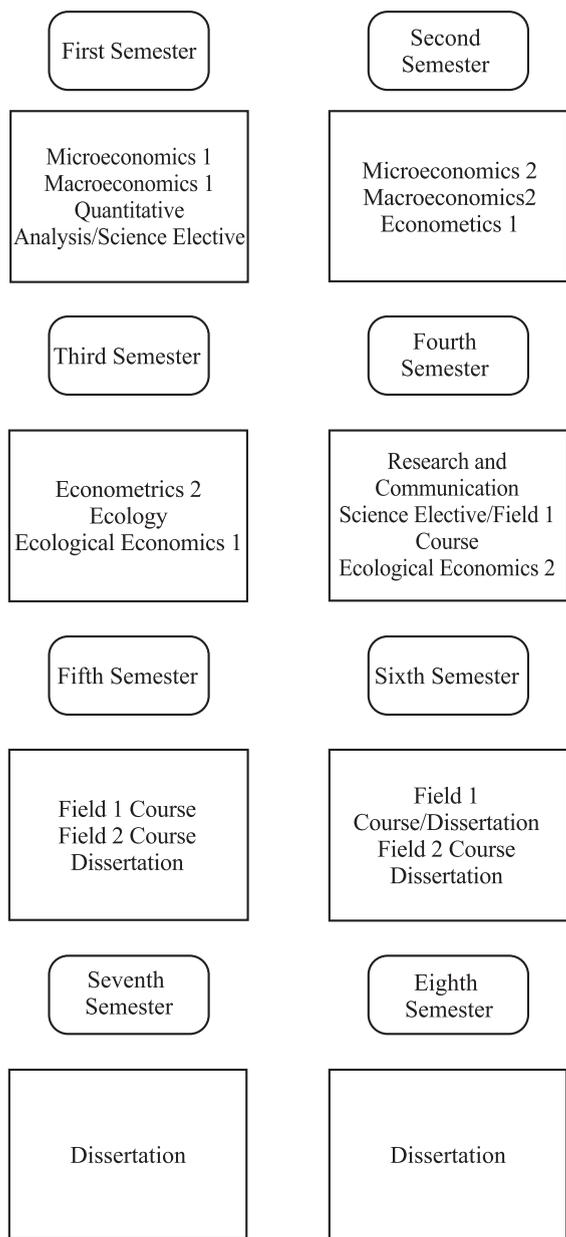


Fig. 1. Ecological economics graduate plan of study.

proficiencies that a student should be able to demonstrate are: (1) gaining access to existing knowledge, (2) displaying command of existing knowledge, (3) displaying the ability to draw out existing knowledge, (4) using existing knowledge to explore issues and (5) creating new knowledge (Becker et al., 1991). The program of study I describe will meet each of these standards. Further, fields of specialization are suggested to complement the core of an ecological economics program, to enhance the education process and to give the student with an ecological economics degree a higher level of marketability.

The curriculum presented in this paper is designed to train graduate students in economics. However, an alternative curriculum that emphasizes the natural sciences slightly more can just as easily be developed. But, in the end, most will agree that economics is the driving factor for ecological degradation. Therefore, a solid foundation in economics for a doctoral degree in ecological economics is necessary.

Opinions in graduate economic education are seldom made public, but when they are, the views are most critical (Colander and Klammer, 1987). Let me emphasize that the views presented here are my own personal views and are presented with the hopes of fostering discussion about the basic educational requirements for an advanced degree in ecological economics.

The following sections will outline the core of a program in ecological economics, consisting of required courses and comprehensive exams, the fields of study and the underlying objectives.

2. The common core

There is a substantial nucleus of subject matter, which should be common to all economists. The core of a program, taken by all graduate students, provides the fundamentals of that discipline. The goal of graduate education is to launch the student on a lifetime of self-education. Only the fundamentals sufficiently provide the groundwork for later self-education (Bowen, 1953). The common core consists primarily of economic theory, science, and statistical and research methods.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات