

# **Accounting Information and Management (AIM)**

## **PhD Program Guidelines**

**July 2019**

**(with minor revisions June 2020 and August 2020)**

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## I. Introduction

The goal of the Accounting Information and Management Department (AIM) PhD program is to train students in research methods appropriate for the study of accounting issues from both empirical/archival and analytic/theoretical perspectives in preparation for an academic career at a research-oriented institution. This cross-training in empirical and analytic research methods is an important element and strength of the AIM program.

The purpose of this document is to describe the goals, requirements, policies, and parameters of the AIM PhD program for the benefit of both faculty and students. The written representation of the requirements of the program should clarify both student and faculty understanding of the program and facilitate appropriate, informed expectations.

PhD students are subject to the requirements and regulations of the Graduate School of Northwestern University (TGS), of the Kellogg School of Management (KSM) PhD Program, and of the Accounting Information and Management Department (AIM). The student is responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with all of the applicable rules and requirements. The requirements of the Graduate School and the Kellogg School of Management are described in The Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures ([www.TGS.Northwestern.edu/about/policies/index.html](http://www.TGS.Northwestern.edu/about/policies/index.html)) and in the Kellogg Doctoral Program ([www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/programs/doctoralprogram/programs/programrequirements.aspx](http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/programs/doctoralprogram/programs/programrequirements.aspx)), respectively. This document does not repeat all of the provisions in the other two documents but focuses on those specific to the AIM Department.

## II. Residency

Students are expected to be in residence the entire duration of the PhD program in order to contribute to and gain from the intellectual life of the department, the school and the university. PhD training consists of academic and professional development and such training cannot occur while the student is not in residence and fully engaged in academic activities. **Any absences from the department in excess of two weeks in any quarter (including summer) must be approved by the AIM Department Chair and the AIM Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Failure to obtain such approval may result in reduction or complete loss of the student's stipend.**

**Students who do not remain in residence must inform the AIM Department Chair and the AIM DGS in advance and will not receive the stipend portion of the financial aid package while out of residence.** Being in residence requires that the student be on campus full time throughout the academic year, including summers, and actively engaged in AIM Department activities on a daily basis during each of the academic year's four quarters.

## III. Coursework and Schedule

PhD students generally complete six quarters of coursework comprising 3 or 4 courses per quarter (fall, winter, spring) during their first two years in the program. All courses must be taken for a grade (pass/no pass is not permitted) and the student must maintain a minimum 3.0 (B) average.

Enrolling in MBA courses is discouraged. Faculty members throughout Kellogg generally permit PhD students to attend (audit) MBA courses without registering. Such auditing may be done in the third or fourth year of the student's program or as needed for developing teaching-related skills.

A typical program of study is the following (subject to changes in scheduling):

Fall Quarter, First Year

Microeconomics	-	ECON 410-1	Microeconomics
Econometrics	-	ECON 480-1	Introduction to Econometrics
Accounting	-	ACCT 540-1	Empirical Research in Accounting I*

Winter Quarter, First Year

Microeconomics	-	ECON 410-2	Microeconomics
Econometrics	-	ECON 480-2	Introduction to Econometrics
Accounting	-	ACCT 540-2	Empirical Research in Accounting II**

Spring Quarter, First Year

Microeconomics	-	ECON 410-3	Microeconomics
Econometrics	-	ECON 480-3	Introduction to Econometrics
Accounting	-	ACCT 550-1	Research in Accounting Theory I***

Summer Quarter, First Year

Accounting	-	ACCT 590-0	Research
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Accounting Qualifying Examination I

Summer Research Paper I

Fall Quarter, Second Year

Accounting	-	ACCT 540-1	Empirical Research in Accounting I*
Elective <sup>#</sup>			
Elective <sup>#</sup>			
Elective <sup>#</sup>	-	Optional	
Interdisciplinary Seminar	-	KPHD 520-0	Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit)

Winter Quarter, Second Year

Accounting	-	ACCT 540-2	Empirical Research in Accounting II**
Elective <sup>#</sup>			
Elective <sup>#</sup>			
Elective <sup>#</sup>	-	Optional	

Spring Quarter, Second Year

Accounting	-	ACCT 550-1	Research in Accounting Theory I***
Elective <sup>#</sup>			
Elective <sup>#</sup>			
Elective <sup>#</sup>	-	Optional	
Interdisciplinary Seminar	-	KPHD 520-0	Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit)

\* ACCT 540-1, "Empirical Research in Accounting I" is taken in both the first and second years with different course requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students.

\*\* Accounting 540-2, “Empirical Research in Accounting II”, is a topics-based course and rotates every other year. AIM PhD students are required to take the topics course in both their first and second years.

\*\*\* Accounting 550-1, “Research in Accounting Theory I” is taken in both the first and second years with different course requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students.

Summer Quarter, Second Year

Accounting - ACCT 590-0 Research

AIM Qualifying Examination II  
 Summer Research Paper II

Fall Quarter, Third Year

Elective<sup>#</sup> - Optional  
 Interdisciplinary Seminar - KPHD 520-0 Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit given in spring quarter)

Winter Quarter, Third Year

Elective<sup>#</sup> - Optional

Spring Quarter, Third Year

Elective<sup>#</sup> - Optional  
 Interdisciplinary Seminar - KPHD 520-0 Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit for fall plus spring quarters)

<sup>#</sup>Some suggested electives (this list is not exhaustive and is subject to change):

ACCT	550 - 2	Research in Accounting Theory II
ECON	- 411 - 1, 2, 3	Macroeconomics
ECON	- 414 - 1, 2, 3	Economics of Information
ECON	- 450 - 1, 2, 3	Industrial Organization and Prices
ECON	- 482	Applied Econometrics: Time-Series Methods
ECON	- 483	Applied Econometrics: Cross-Section Methods
FINC	- 485 - 1, 2, 3	Asset Pricing I, II, III
FINC	- 486 - 1, 2, 3	Corporate Finance I, II, III
MATH	- 314	Probability and Statistics for Econometrics
MATH	- 320	Real Analysis
MECS	- 560 - 1	Static Optimization in Economics
MECS	- 560 - 2	Dynamic Optimization in Economics
MECS	- 560 - 3	Research in Economics
MECS	- 549	Economics of Innovation
MKTG	- 552	Quantitative Marketing: Structural Modeling
STAT	- 420	Introduction to Statistical Theory and Methodology

The specific curriculum depends on the student’s background and research interests.

**Students must obtain prior approval by the AIM Director of Graduate Studies of each quarter’s course of study before registering.**

#### **IV. Research Workshops**

Throughout the student's tenure at Northwestern University, the faculty expects PhD students to attend the accounting workshops, which generally are held on Wednesdays. These workshops consist of outside scholars invited to present their research as well as Kellogg AIM faculty and PhD students who likewise present their research. The faculty expects all PhD students to read the research papers carefully before the workshop and encourages them to participate in the workshop by asking questions and making comments. The PhD students have the opportunity to meet as a group with each visiting speaker. The faculty expects all PhD students to attend and participate in such meetings. The faculty also encourages students to attend research workshops in other departments consistent with their interests (e.g., finance, economics).

#### **V. AIM Qualifying Examinations**

There are two AIM qualifying examinations, the first during the summer following the student's first year and the second during the summer following the student's second year in the program. Each exam is based on the accounting PhD courses taken to date in the program.

The purpose of the first exam is to test whether the student meets the required hurdle of competence in both analytical and empirical approaches to accounting research. The grading on the exam is high pass (HP), pass (P), low pass (LP), and fail (F). Each question on the exam is graded independently by at least two faculty members. A student failing the exam may petition the AIM Department to retake the exam prior to the end of summer quarter. If the faculty believe the student is unlikely to complete the exam successfully at the second attempt, the faculty may refuse the petition and the student will be excluded from the program. Failure to pass the exam a second time will result in exclusion from the program. An excluded student may appeal the decision directly to The Graduate School.

The second exam is comprehensive, covering two years of accounting PhD courses. In addition to the in-class portion of the exam, there is also a take-home portion comprising a "referee report." The student has the choice of an empirical or an analytical paper to review for the referee report. The student evaluates the paper's strengths and weaknesses, its contribution to the literature, and ways in which the research may be improved or extended. The student has three days in which to write the referee report. The grading on the exam is high pass (HP), pass (P), low pass (LP), and fail (F). Each question on the exam is graded independently by at least two faculty members. A student failing the exam may petition the AIM department for permission to take the exam a second time prior to the end of summer quarter. If the faculty believe the student is unlikely to complete the exam successfully at the second attempt, the faculty may refuse the petition and the student will be excluded from the program. Failure to pass the exam a second time will result in exclusion from the program. An excluded student may appeal the decision directly to The Graduate School.

#### **VI. First Year Summer Research Paper**

After completing the first year AIM qualifying examination, the student spends the remainder of the summer completing an empirical research replication project under the supervision of a faculty member of the student's choice. The purpose of the project is to ensure that the student gains experience working with data and computing software, as well as experience with writing and presenting one's own research.

The project consists of a replication of a published paper plus an extension to a different data set, perhaps more recent, with a comparison and analysis of any differences in results. The deliverable is a written research paper that is distributed to all faculty and PhD students in the department and presented in a sixty minute AIM workshop no later than **September 15**. Please see Exhibit A-2 for an outline of the contents of the paper. Failure to complete this requirement by September 15 may result in exclusion from the program.

Students completing their first year in the PhD program must identify the general topic for their research paper and a faculty advisor by **July 1**. Please see Exhibit A-1 for a form to be completed and submitted to the AIM Director of Graduate Studies.

## VII. Second Year Summer Research Paper

During the summer following the second year, and after completing the second year AIM qualifying exam, the student writes an original research paper. The purpose of the research paper is to provide the student with an early, independent experience doing original research from beginning (identifying the research question) to finish (analyzing the results). The student should begin considering potential topics for the summer paper early in the second year. The student writes the summer paper under the direction of a faculty advisor of the student's choice. The selection of the faculty advisor and of the summer paper topic must be made by **July 1** prior to the start of the student's third year in the program and must be communicated to the AIM DGS by that time (see form attached as Exhibit B). The summer paper may be either analytical or empirical.

If the summer paper is empirical, the requirements for the paper are that the student:

- Demonstrates ability to develop an original research question
- Articulates the testable hypotheses
- Designs an appropriate study to test the hypotheses
- Identifies the appropriate variables for the tests and gathers the data
- Interprets the results of the tests appropriately

If the summer paper is analytical, the requirements for the paper are that the student:

- Motivates the study by reference to a well-articulated accounting problem or set of related problems
- Develops a set of theorems that provides new insights into these problems
- Demonstrates the ability to prove original, and correct, theorems of interest to accounting academics

The student is required to present the summer paper to the AIM faculty in a 60 minute workshop no later than **September 15** prior to the start of fall quarter of the student's third year. The paper must demonstrate the student's ability to conduct academic research but not be necessarily of publishable quality. In other words, the paper must be original, not just a replication of an existing study but need not pass the test of potential publishability in a top tier journal. Tenured and tenure-track members of the AIM faculty attending the workshop assess the quality of the summer paper. The student's advisor and the DGS must both indicate their acceptance of the student's work on the form provided (see form attached as Exhibit C).

Some students develop and expand their summer paper into a potentially publishable paper and some students expand their summer paper into their dissertation. The summer paper can thus serve as an important first step into academic research.

If the faculty determine that the summer paper is inadequate, the student's summer paper advisor and the DGS either document the steps necessary to rectify the situation (e.g., revise the paper along specified dimensions by a given date) and discuss these with the student, or inform the student that s/he is being excluded from the program. If the former, the student's summer paper advisor and the DGS monitor progress consistent with the document. The student may be required to present the paper at another workshop. Failure to complete an acceptable summer research paper by the designated date (and no later than **November 15** of the third year) may result in exclusion from the program. Successful completion of the summer paper is signified by the signed document in Exhibit C. No student can be admitted to candidacy without successfully completing the second year summer research paper.

### VIII. Admission to Candidacy

Upon successful passing of the preliminary examination during the summer following the student's second year in the program, and successful completion of the second year summer research paper, the AIM tenured faculty evaluate the student for admission to candidacy. The evaluation for admission to candidacy includes the following items:

- 1) Course selection and grades
- 2) Performance on the two AIM qualifying examinations
- 3) Quality of execution of the assigned teaching assistant and research assistantship responsibilities as reported by the appropriate faculty
- 4) Participation in department activities including weekly research workshops
- 5) Assessment of the quality of the first and second year summer papers

Admission to candidacy is dependent on the tenure track faculty's assessment that the student is likely to succeed in completing the dissertation and additional research, and thus likely to obtain an academic position at a top research institution. Students with satisfactory evaluations are admitted to candidacy and provided feedback on the process by the AIM DGS. Students with unsatisfactory evaluations are excluded from the AIM PhD program. Excluded students may appeal the decision to The Graduate School.

### IX. Year Three

During the third year of the program, the student should identify one or more research topics the student plans to develop into a dissertation and/or working papers. Successful job market participants generally have at least one working and/or published research paper in addition to their dissertation. Year three of the PhD program is a critical period for developing research ideas. **To facilitate meeting this goal, the student must identify at least one AIM faculty member with whom the student intends to work on research no later than the end of fall quarter of year three.** This faculty member may become a member or chair of the dissertation committee and/or a co-author with the student, although these are not necessary conditions or requirements. The student must communicate the choice of faculty to the DGS by the end of the fall quarter.

During the spring quarter (no later than June 1) of the third year in the program, the PhD student must give a sixty minute, “brown bag” lunch presentation of one or more research ideas on which the student is working. The research idea/s should form the basis for the student’s dissertation or a working paper. The working paper may be co-authored. The presentation should include at least the research question, preliminary research design and associated data requirements, and a literature review. The purpose of the “brown bag” presentation is to elicit comments on the research ideas from the entire AIM faculty and fellow PhD students.

## **X. Prospectus (Dissertation Proposal) Examination**

Students must take the prospectus exam **by the end of winter quarter of their fourth year**. In preparation for this exam, the student forms a dissertation committee. The chair (or at least one co-chair if there are two co-chairs) of the dissertation committee must be an AIM faculty member. There must be a minimum of three other faculty members, with at least one other member from the AIM department and at least one member from outside the AIM department. Obtaining feedback from the committee prior to presenting the paper in a general workshop is critical to development of the research and to passing the exam. The faculty encourages students to form the dissertation committee as early as possible to benefit from the committee’s feedback prior to the prospectus exam. No more than one committee member may be absent from the prospectus exam.

The exam consists of the presentation of an original research project that the student intends to be the dissertation. The student makes this presentation in an open, formal workshop setting of 75 minutes in length.

Members of the faculty question the student during the prospectus examination as in a regular workshop setting. At the end of the presentation, the tenured faculty, after discussion with other members of the tenure-track AIM faculty in attendance, determines one of the following outcomes:

- 1) The student’s research topic qualifies as a dissertation proposal; the student’s presentation demonstrates appropriate research aptitude for successfully completing the PhD program; the student passes the prospectus exam. The dissertation committee drafts a document constituting the plan for completion of the dissertation. The dissertation chairman is responsible for monitoring compliance with the plan of completion.
- 2) The student’s research topic qualifies as a dissertation proposal; the student’s presentation demonstrates appropriate research aptitude for successfully completing the PhD program; but the research has not progressed sufficiently for the committee to draft a plan for completion of the dissertation; the student does NOT pass the prospectus exam. The committee outlines the requirements, in writing, that the student must meet before scheduling the second presentation, which presentation will serve as the basis for drafting a plan for completion of the dissertation. The dissertation chairman is responsible for monitoring progress toward the goal and specifying a deadline for the second presentation, which deadline cannot be later than **September 15** prior to the start of the student’s fifth year.
- 3) The student’s research topic does NOT qualify as a dissertation proposal and the student does NOT pass the prospectus exam. However, the committee believes the student demonstrates sufficient research aptitude to be permitted to retake the exam with a different dissertation proposal. The final deadline for passing the prospectus exam is **September 15** prior to the start of the student’s fifth year.



- 4) The student demonstrates insufficient research aptitude to continue in the program, fails the prospectus examination, and is excluded from the PhD program. The student may appeal this decision to The Graduate School.

The outcome of the prospectus examination is communicated to the student by the dissertation committee chairman both verbally and in written form. A signed copy of the prospectus exam form is provided to the Graduate School by Susan Jackman.

A student may sit for the prospectus examination two or more times with the permission of the AIM DGS and the AIM Department Chair. However, the student must pass the exam by the end of the summer quarter before the start of the student's fifth year, as required by the Graduate School.

Students must communicate the date and time of the exam to the Graduate School (through Susan Jackman) and to the AIM DGS at least **two weeks in advance**.

## **XI. Dissertation Defense**

With the consent of the dissertation committee, the student may schedule his or her dissertation defense in an open workshop. Notice of the date and time of the defense must be provided to the Graduate School (through Susan Jackman) and to the AIM DGS at least **two weeks in advance**. AIM requires that no more than one member of the dissertation committee may be absent from the defense. At the completion of the defense, the committee votes on whether the student has successfully defended his/her dissertation. All members of the dissertation committee must sign the Graduate School forms indicating that the student has passed or not passed the dissertation defense. If a student fails the defense, the dissertation committee decides whether the student may retake the exam and the conditions for retaking the exam. If the dissertation committee determines the student may not retake the dissertation defense, the student will be excluded from the program.

## **XII. Financial Aid**

PhD students receiving financial aid from the Kellogg School of Management generally receive such aid for the maximum period of five years, subject to remaining in good standing with the Graduate School and to achieving satisfactory progress in the AIM Department. The financial aid package consists of tuition, health insurance, and a monthly fellowship stipend.

In the first year, the fellowship stipend requires no teaching or research assistantship activities. In years two through four, the stipend requires that the student work ten hours per week as a teaching assistant or research assistant each academic quarter including summers. Students are required to work as teaching assistants no more than six of these quarters and work as research assistants in the remaining quarters. There is no work requirement in the fifth year. The teaching and research assistantships are similar to apprenticeships, and thus important to the student's professional development.

The details of the financial aid package are provided in the acceptance letter sent by Kellogg to admitted PhD students.

Students may not engage in remunerative work unless a written request for a waiver is approved by TGS. In addition, any potential employment outside of research or teaching assistantships within AIM,

must be approved by the DGS and the AIM Department Chair **in advance**. Accepting employment without such approval may result in the loss of part of all of the student's financial aid.

Students are expected to be in residence the entire duration of the PhD program in order to contribute to and gain from the intellectual life of the department, the school and the university. Extended absences (absences greater than two weeks) from the AIM Department must be approved **in advance** by the DGS and the AIM Department Chair. PhD training consists of academic and professional development and such training cannot occur unless the student is in residence and fully engaged in academic activities. **Absences of more than two weeks may result in reduction or complete loss of the student's stipend.**

**Students who do not remain in residence must inform the AIM Department Chair and the AIM DGS in advance and may not receive the stipend portion of the financial aid package while out of residence.** Being in residence requires that the student be on campus full time throughout the academic year, including summers, and actively engaged in AIM Department activities on a daily basis during each of the academic year's four quarters.

### **XIII. Research Assistantship (RA)**

Because the PhD program is, in part, an apprenticeship, and the student's involvement in all phases of research is a critical part of professional development, each student serves as a research assistant (RA) to members of the AIM faculty for each of the quarters in academic years 2 through 4 that the student is not a teaching assistant (TA). The research assistantships provide training and guidance in conducting research and benefit both faculty and students in accomplishing research goals. The RA work may require up to ten hours per week throughout each academic quarter that the student is not a TA.

In addition to the 10 hour per week requirement, there may be additional opportunities to work as a research assistant for additional pay. All additional RA arrangements must be approved in advance by the DGS or the AIM Department Chair.

### **XIV. Teaching Assistantship (TA)**

Because the PhD program is, in part, an apprenticeship, the student's involvement in teaching responsibilities is a critical part of professional development. PhD students may serve as teaching assistants (TA) to members of the AIM faculty for up to six quarters total during the three academic years 2 through 4. The DGS and the AIM Department Chair assign teaching assistant responsibilities to students. The TA work may require up to approximately ten hours per week during the academic quarter.

### **XV. Annual Progress Reports**

During the summer following each academic year, the DGS meets with each PhD student to assess the student's progress toward completion of the program's academic requirements and goals. After each meeting, the DGS prepares a summary report to be discussed by the Department Chair, the AIM tenured faculty, and faculty for whom the student has worked as an RA and TA. The DGS communicates the department's assessment in writing to the student no later than **September 15**. An annual evaluation of each student's progress is required by and forwarded to The Graduate School. Students are assessed as:

- a) making satisfactory progress

- b) not making satisfactory progress with the specification of a remediation plan
- c) not making satisfactory progress and excluded from the program

Additional assessments of the student's progress toward completion of the PhD are made after the student takes the qualifying exam and after the student completes the prospectus exam as described above.

The Graduate School requires that a student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and have no more than three incompletes to stay in good academic standing. If the student is placed on probation, the student and the DGS develop a plan, with specific action steps and specific completion dates, for the student to return to good standing. This plan is put in writing and monitored by the DGS.

#### **XVI. Master of Science (MS) Degree in Managerial Economics and Strategy (MES)**

AIM PhD students are eligible for an MS in Managerial Economics and Strategy (MES) at the end of the first year in the program. Students must take three quarters of Microeconomics, three quarters of Econometrics, and three AIM PhD courses during the first year. Students must earn a minimum 3.0 grade point average in these courses during the first year. The student also must be in good standing with the Graduate School and either receive an MS pass on the microeconomics written exam, administered by the economics department, or have a grade point average for the three microeconomics courses (ECON 410-1, 2, 3) of 3.6 or better.

Students may choose this option, subject to meeting the necessary requirements, whether or not they continue in the PhD program. However, a student choosing to receive an MS in MES after the first year will not be eligible for a MS in Accounting after the second year (see below); the degrees are mutually exclusive. **Please note** that the microeconomics written exam is NOT required except for the purposes of meeting the requirements for the MS Degree in Managerial Economics and Strategy.

#### **XVII. Master of Science (MS) Degree in Accounting**

Students who complete two years of coursework, take the preliminary examination, and are in good standing with the Graduate School are eligible for a master's degree (MS) in accounting upon petition to the AIM department, regardless of whether they continue in the program. The petition takes the form of a formal letter addressed to the AIM Department Chair and to the DGS. At the time of grading the preliminary examination, the faculty will assess whether a student who fails the exam demonstrates sufficient knowledge on the exam to be eligible for the master's degree. As noted above in XVI, the MS degree in accounting cannot be awarded to a student who has been granted an MS in MES.

#### **XVIII. Summary Timeline of Due Dates and Milestones**

##### **First year**

###### *Fall Quarter*

Coursework (3-4 courses)

###### *Winter Quarter*

Coursework (3-4 courses)

###### *Spring Quarter*

Coursework (3-4 courses)

###### *Summer Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 590 - Research  
**Accounting Qualifying Examination I (late June)**  
**Summer Research Paper I (presentation by 9/15)**

### **Second year**

#### *Fall Quarter*

Coursework (3-4 courses)  
 Interdisciplinary Seminar - KPHD 520-0 - Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit after spring quarter)  
 RA or TA work

#### *Winter Quarter*

Coursework (3-4 courses)  
 RA or TA work

#### *Spring Quarter*

Coursework (3-4 courses)  
 Interdisciplinary Seminar - KPHD 520-0 - Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit for fall + spring quarters)  
 RA or TA work

#### *Summer Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 590 - Research  
**Accounting Qualifying Examination II (late June)**  
**Summer Research Paper II (presentation by 9/15)**  
**September 15 deadline for admission to candidacy**

### **Third year**

#### *Fall Quarter*

Elective - Optional  
 Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work  
 Interdisciplinary Seminar - KPHD 520-0 - Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit)  
**December 15** – Identify faculty for continuing research association (deadline)  
 RA or TA work

#### *Winter Quarter*

Elective - Optional  
 Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work  
 RA or TA work

#### *Spring Quarter*

Elective - Optional  
 Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work  
 Interdisciplinary Seminar - KPHD 520-0 Workshop on Research Development (0.5 credit)  
**Presentation of research ideas preliminary to dissertation research (present by June 1)**  
 RA or TA work

#### *Summer Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work  
 RA or TA work

### **Fourth year**

#### *Fall Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work  
 RA or TA work

#### *Winter Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work  
 RA or TA work  
**Prospectus Examination (end of quarter deadline)**

#### *Spring Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work

RA or TA work

*Summer Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work

RA or TA work

**Fifth year**

*Fall Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work

Prepare and submit materials for job market

Present job market paper in AIM workshop

*Winter Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work

Interviews at prospective academic institutions

*Spring Quarter*

Research: Register for TGS 500 - Advanced Doctoral Work

**Dissertation defense**

**Graduation and hooding**

**Exhibit A-1**

**Kellogg School of Management  
Northwestern University**

**Accounting Information & Management**

**PhD Program – First Year Summer Research Paper Advisor and Title**

Please complete and submit this form to the AIM Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) no later than **July 1** of the summer following your **first year** in the program.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty advisor for summer paper \_\_\_\_\_

Title of summer paper \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of summer paper:

**Exhibit A-2**

**Kellogg School of Management  
Northwestern University**

**Accounting Information & Management**

**PhD Program – First Year Summer Research Paper Outline**

The following outline should serve as a guide to the contents of the summer paper.

**I. Introduction**

- Describe the reasons for the choice of the paper to replicate and extend (e.g., what prompted your interest in this paper/area of research).
- Summarize the paper selected to replicate and the outcome of your replication (including what results you confirmed / did not confirm and possible reasons why).
- Discuss the results for the extension.
- Provide some possible avenues to extend the paper.

**II. Data**

- Describe the sample selection procedures you followed and variable definitions (including any that varied from the paper selected to replicate and reasons why you varied the sample construction).
- Discuss your sample descriptive statistics (provide them in a table) and compare them to the descriptive statistics in the paper you selected to replicate. Discuss any that differ substantially and possible reasons why.

**III. Replication**

- Provide the model(s) you estimated and discuss/interpret the estimation results (include table(s) with the estimation results).
- Compare your estimation results with the paper you chose to replicate and discuss any that vary (and possible reasons why).

**IV. Extension**

- Discuss the way in which you chose to extend the paper and why you chose this approach.
- Provide any discussion of additional data you needed for your extension.
- Provide the model(s) you estimated for your extension
- Discuss / interpret the estimation results for the extension (include table(s) with the estimation results)
- Interpret the findings for your extension in the context of the paper you chose to replicate. Do the findings hold with this new data / new setting? Are there any new insights we can learn from this extension?

V. Conclusion

- Briefly summarize your results.

References

Appendix (if needed)

Tables/Figures



**Exhibit B**

**Kellogg School of Management  
Northwestern University**

**Accounting Information & Management**

**PhD Program – Second Year Summer Research Paper Advisor and Title**

Please complete and submit this form to the AIM Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) no later than **July 1** of the summer following your **second year** in the program.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty advisor for summer paper \_\_\_\_\_

Title of summer paper \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of summer paper:

**Exhibit C**

**Kellogg School of Management  
Northwestern University**

**Accounting Information & Management**

**PhD Program – Summer Research Paper Completion**

Please complete and submit this form to the Director Graduate Studies no later than **September 15** prior to the beginning of your **third year** in the program.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty advisor for summer paper \_\_\_\_\_

Title of summer paper \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date summer paper presented \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I signify that the above named student has fulfilled the requirements for the successful completion and presentation of the summer research paper.

Faculty Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Director Graduate Studies \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit D**

**Kellogg School of Management  
Northwestern University**

**Accounting Information & Management**

**PhD Program – Prospectus Examination Committee**

Please complete and submit this form to the AIM Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) no later than **February 1** of your **fourth year** in the PhD program. The prospectus examination committee must consist of at least four faculty members of which the chair and at least one other member must be AIM faculty. There must be one member from outside the AIM department.

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

**Prospectus Examination Committee:**

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated (approximate) date for prospectus examination (must be prior to March 31 of the student's fourth year in the program) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Exhibit E

### Nondiscrimination Statement

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University's educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.

Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern's Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [equity@northwestern.edu](mailto:equity@northwestern.edu).

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern's Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, [TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu).

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html) or calling 800-421-3481. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern's Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.