Olin’s PhD program in Business Economics prepares you for an academic career in economics with rigorous training grounded in the central areas of the field. You’ll have opportunities for cross-disciplinary work, combining economics with strategy, finance or marketing. Student success is fostered by the faculty’s active interest in supporting student learning, along with advising and supervising overall research efforts to help students realize their full potential. Olin Business Economics faculty members have a special interest in empirical and theoretical industrial organization. Research pursuits cover a wide range of subjects, including industry studies, incentives in organizations, organizational design, health economics and the determinants of industry structure.

The Center for Research in Economics and Strategy (CRES) advances the understanding of firms and markets by supporting scientific research employing state-of-the-art analytical and empirical methods. Intended for publication in top-tier academic journals, CRES-sponsored research addresses substantive questions in many areas of economics and strategy. In addition to research assistance, which includes PhD student funding and data collection, CRES supports frequent presentations of internal and external research, national and international short-term visitors, CRES Fellows, and a website that includes extensive research listings.

Collaborative Research—Business Economics Faculty and PhD Students

Working Papers:
- Cooper, R.* and Hamilton, B. Who Shows Whom the Money? The Effects of Social and Human Capital on Negotiating Agent Performance.
- He, J.* and Natenzon, P. Moderate Expected Utility.
- Zeng, X.* and Chib, S. Bayesian Strategy for Improved Forecasts of the Equity Premium.

Working Project:
- Baranchuk, N., McDonald, G. and Yang, J.* Innovation Incentives.

Published Papers:
CHAIR: Stephen P. Ryan  
Myron Northrop Professor of Economics  
PhD, Duke University  
Research interests: industrial organization, applied microeconometrics, dynamic games, environmental regulation, health economics

David Ahn  
Professor of Economics  
PhD, Stanford University  
Research interests: voting theory, mechanism design, game theory, decision theory

Mariagiovanna Baccara  
Professor of Economics  
PhD, Princeton University  
Research interests: innovation and intellectual property rights, organized crime, matching, social networks

Cecilia Diaz Campo  
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Research interests: industrial organization, health economics

Siddhartha Chib  
Harry C. Hartkopf Professor of Econometrics and Statistics  
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Research interests: Bayesian statistics and econometrics, Markov chain Monte Carlo methods

Barton H. Hamilton  
Robert Brookings Smith Distinguished Professor of Economics, Management & Entrepreneurship and Academic Advisor Center for Experiential Learning  
PhD, Stanford University  
Research interests: entrepreneurship, labor economics health economics, econometrics

Brent Hickman  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
PhD, University of Iowa  
Research interests: empirical methods for models of private information, auctions, industrial organization, higher education, affirmative action, black-white inequality

Brad Larsen  
Associate Professor of Economics  
PhD, MIT  
Research interests: Industrial organization, bargaining, auctions, occupational licensing, online marketplaces, applied economics

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Research interests: industry evolution, strategy and value appropriation, microeconomics/industrial organization, investor protection, compensation

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Paulo Natenzon  
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PhD, Princeton University  
Research interests: economic theory, decision theory, behavioral economics

Robert A. Pollak  
Hernreich Distinguished Professor of Economics (joint with Arts & Sciences)  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Research interests: environmental economics and policy, consumer demand analysis and consumer behavior, demography, labor economics, the economics of the family

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