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:
- He, J.*, Natenzon, P., Moderate Expected Utility.

Working Project:
- Baranchuk, N., McDonald, G., 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 and decision theory

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

Siddhartha Chib  
Harry C. Hartkopf Professor of Econometrics and Statistics  
PhD, University of California—Santa Barbara  
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

Glenn MacDonald  
John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics and Strategy  
PhD, University of Rochester  
Research interests: industry evolution, strategy and value appropriation, microeconomics/industrial organization, investor protection and compensation

Paulo Natenzon  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
PhD, Princeton University  
Research interests: economic theory, decision theory, behavioral economics

Robert A. Pollak  
Herreich 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 and the economics of the family