“Our students benefit from a large faculty-to-student ratio relative to other Strategy PhD programs. This means more attention—and the ability to work with multiple faculty before deciding on a dissertation topic.”

—Nicholas Argyres, Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper Professor of Strategy

At Olin, we believe that great Strategy PhD candidates have a fundamental drive to impact business practice. Our students, like our faculty, have diverse undergraduate training, including economics, chemistry, engineering, and mathematics. We strongly promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research among PhD students and faculty across business disciplines and with other areas and schools at Washington University.

In our program, strategy is studied at both the firm and individual levels—examining how organizations create and capture value, which arises from differing strategies, organizational designs, and environmental conditions. While firm performance is observed at the market level, the microfoundations of this performance lie in the behavior and organization of individuals and resources within the firm. The organization of these factors influences performance in innovation, firm structure, and human productivity.

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—Strategy Faculty and PhD Students

Working Papers:

Published Papers:

*Indicates current or former student
CHAIR: Anne Marie Knott  
Robert and Barbara Frick Professor of Business  
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles  
Research interests: innovation, R&D, entrepreneurship, managerial value

Nicholas Argyres  
Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: strategy and structure, vertical integration, contracting and interorganizational arrangements, strategy and the institutional environment, information technology and organization, organizational politics

Seth Carnahan  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
PhD, Strategy, University of Maryland  
Research Interests: Strategy, entrepreneurship, human capital, employee mobility

Phech Colatat  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Research interests: organizational theory, economic sociology, organizational learning, social networks, medical sociology, social epidemiology

Daniel W. Elfenbein  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
PhD, Harvard University  
Research interests: governance of complex transactions, markets for intellectual property, innovation and technological change, university–industry technology transfer, incentives in organizations

Tarek Ghani  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: market and institutional development in emerging economies

Jackson A. Nickerson  
Frahm Family Professor of Organization and Strategy and Brookings Non-Resident Senior Scholar in Government Studies  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: business strategy organization choice and performance, corporate survival, new institutional economics, intellectual capital management, management of innovation and technology

Lamar Pierce  
Professor of Organization and Strategy  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Research interests: business strategy and public policy, fraud and corruption, ethics, incentives in organizations

Ulya Tsolmon  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, Duke University  
Research interests: internal markets and governance of multiunit firms, strategic human capital and firm boundaries, innovation strategy