

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LABOR ECONOMICS FIELD 2025-2026

Course Requirements

Fall 2025

261A Labor Economics I
Professor Maurizio
Mazzocco

Winter 2026

261B Labor Economics II
Professor Daniel Haanwinckel
[Course is not offered AY 2025-2026]

Spring 2026

244 U.S. Labor Markets and Public Programs since 1940
Professor Martha Bailey **(Cross-listed with Economic History)**

262A. Applied Methods
Professor Yotam Shem-Tov and Professor Till von Wachter **(Cross-listed with Public Finance)**

[Title TBD] Topics in Labor Economics
Professor Yotam Shem-Tov and Professor Till von Wachter **(Cross-listed with Public Finance)**

262A. Topics in Labor & PF: Education, discrimination, and criminal justice Professor Felipe Goncalves **(Cross-listed with Public Finance)**

Field Requirements

In either field:

- **Course work:** Students must pass a total of 3 courses with a grade of a B or better. We strongly recommend that all students interested in labor take all of the labor courses. In addition, taking courses in public finance, development, and IO are highly complementary. These courses could be taken in the third year.
 - **No course can be double counted for another field.** For example, if a student takes the labor field course that is cross-listed with PF, students must decide for which field to count the course.
- **Second year paper:** Students seeking to complete the Labor Economics field at UCLA are required to write a research paper during their second year. The labor group has designed the requirement to take you through the *process* of finding a research question (something faculty do all the time), provide you with written and verbal feedback at several points over the year to help you choose a great (and feasible) research question, and write your 2nd year paper (or very detailed paper proposal if results are not feasible). This paper will contribute to the completion of the formal ATC requirements and should also set students up for success in their third year as they transition to dissertation work). Consult our detailed instructions containing deadlines ([link here](#)).
- **Proseminar presentation:** Each student must present one paper idea (chosen in collaboration with faculty) in the Applied Proseminar. We expect these presentations to be short (10-15 minutes).
- **Field Exam:** Every student must pass a **second-year field exam** to ATC. Field exams will take place outside of the academic year quarters to minimize the burden on students. The field exam for labor will take place in the last week of June 2026. If needed, the exam can be retaken in September 2026.
- **ATC:** You must have received a passing grade in 3 of the labor field courses, pass the field exam and 2nd year paper requirement, and have a successful dissertation proposal.

Labor faculty

The following faculty can serve as advisors in the Labor Field:

Martha Bailey, Dora Costa,* Michela Giorcelli,* Felipe Goncalves, Daniel Haanwinckel, Maurizio Mazzocco, Yotam Shem-Tov, Till von Wachter

**These advisors require a strong economic history or economics of innovation component.*