

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC FINANCE FIELD 2025-2026

COURSE OFFERINGS

Fall 2026

262P. Health & Government

Professor Adriana Lleras-Muney

Winter 2027

*253B. Taxation, Firms,
Innovation, and Growth*

Professor Patrick Kennedy

Spring 2027

*262A. Topics in Labor & PF:
Education, discrimination, and
criminal justice*

Professor Felipe Goncalves

[cross-listed with Labor]

*253A. Taxes, Transfers,
and Development*

Professor Juliana Londoño-
Vélez

[cross-listed with
Development]

262A. Applied Methods

Professor Yotam Shem-Tov & Till
von Wachter

[cross-listed with Labor]

*262A. Topics in Labor &
PF: Labor, PF, and
Applied Econometrics*

Professor Yotam Shem-
Tov & Till von Wachter

[cross-listed with Labor]

FIELD REQUIREMENTS

- **Course work:** All students must pass a total of 3 topics courses with a grade of a B or better.
 - We **strongly recommend that all students take the Applied methods** course.
 - We strongly recommend that students take all PF courses that are offered. These can be taken for a P/F grade. Courses in PF taken for P/F will require very minimal work.
 - We encourage students to take courses in other applied fields, such as labor, development, economic history, and IO. These courses can be taken in the third year.
 - **Courses cannot be double counted across fields.**
- **Second year paper:** Every student must write an empirical paper by the end of the second year and receive a passing grade. Detailed paper guidelines are given below.
- **Proseminar presentation:** Each student must present their second-year proposal in the Applied Proseminar. The presentation will be a 10- to 15-minute including questions and feedback.
- **Seminar Attendance:** Students are expected to attend the proseminar, the applied seminar and any conference organized by the PF faculty starting in the second year and until they graduate. They are also expected to attend the department-wide job market talks in January and February.
- **Field exams:** There is no final field exam. However, each PF course includes a final Pass/Fail examination that will be administered at the end of each quarter. In addition to passing three courses with at least a B, students must pass at least 3 final exams. Students must obtain a 75% score or greater in each exam to receive a passing grade.
 - Students who fail an exam will be allowed to re-take the exam only **once**, in the summer following the second year and prior to their ATC. The exact date will be set at the instructor's discretion. Students who do not successfully pass **three** PF exams by the end

of September will typically be advised to declare a different field of study or otherwise exit the program.

- **ATC:** Students who have not completed all their field requirements successfully will not be allowed to pass their ATC. In other words, you must have received a passing grade in the second-year paper, in 3 second-year courses and 3 associated final exams before the ATC. Faculty in PF will not advise students who do not pass the PF requirements.
- **Internships:** Students are encouraged to obtain summer internships in the summer of their second, third and fourth years.

PAPER GUIDELINES

- The paper can be cross listed with another field, but students must receive faculty approval before doing so.
- The paper can be co-authored with another student at UCLA or at another university. But it cannot be co-authored with faculty.
- Each paper must be approved by two faculty members from the PF field (listed below). If the paper is cross-listed with another field, then the student must have at least one advisor from each field.
- The final draft of the paper must include: a review of the relevant literature and a statement of the paper's contribution, a description of the data, details on the empirical approach, results, a discussion of the implications of the paper, and a complete list of references. The work must be original, use primary data sources and include substantial empirical work.
- The PF paper must cover some aspect of PF even if it is being jointly submitted to another field. Therefore PF papers must contain some aspect related to the government's role in the economy.
- Paper deadlines
 - **January 29, 2029:** Proposal due. Students should identify at least one advisor and start to discuss their ideas with their advisor by January of their second year. The proposal should identify the topic and assess the feasibility of the project. The proposal should include the following: 1-what is the question to be studied? 2-why is the question interesting or important? 3-what will the contribution of the project be? Please include a brief review of the literature; 4-what data will be used for the project? 5-what empirical work will be done? What will the empirical strategy be? 6-Who are the main advisors? **Faculty will review the proposals and give feedback to students within two weeks of their submissions.** Students may be asked to prepare a new proposal.
 - **Winter/Spring quarter:** An approved research plan must be presented at the proseminar in the winter or spring quarters. This research plan must be approved by your two paper advisors before the presentation. If space allows it, students can present more than once, or can present for more than 20 minutes, with the approval of their two advisors.
 - **June 4, 2027:** A final research plan detailing the work that the student will do over the summer will be submitted. Students will receive approval and feedback for their research plan by the end of June. The research plan should be no more than ten pages, 12pt font, 1.5 spaced.
 - **August 2, 2027:** The final paper will be due.
 - **September 3, 2027:** Students who do not pass the paper requirement will have to resubmit their paper.
 - **There will be no extensions** without documentation of extenuating circumstances. Papers that are not submitted on time will be given an automatic F.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

- **Quarterly lunch:** PF faculty and students are invited to have lunch together once a quarter. Dates TBD. This is voluntary. Students will not pay for lunch.
- **Annual get together:** Details TBD

PUBLIC FINANCE FACULTY

Felipe Goncalves, Patrick Kennedy, Adriana Lleras-Muney, Juliana Londoño-Vélez, Kathleen McGarry, Bernardo Silveira (on leave 2026-2027), Yotam Shem-Tov, Till von Wachter.