

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE THEORY FIELD 2026-2027

COURSES

Winter 2027

211C Game Theory
Professor Daniel Clark

222B Productivity [cross-listed with
Macroeconomics and Development
field]

Professor David Baqaee

FIELD REQUIREMENTS

Students who choose theory as their field are required to meet the following requirements by the end of the second year:

- Take 211C and two additional theory courses and pass them with a grade of B+ or better. Please consult theory liaison (Jay Lu) on the additional courses. The following is a suggestive but non-exhaustive list:
 - UCLA Econ: David Baqaee (Topics in Monetary Economics)
 - UCLA Anderson: Felipe Caro (Dynamic Programming), Barney Hartman-Glaser (Corporate Finance), Rakesh Sarin (Decision Theory)
 - Caltech: Axel Niemeyer (Mechanism Design), Kota Saito (Decision Theory)
- Regularly attend the theory workshop and the theory proseminar and present a theory field paper at the proseminar.
- Submit a theory field paper and receive a passing grade.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- A theory field paper can be either an original research paper or a survey paper with a research proposal.
- When appropriate, a student may submit a theory field paper that is being used to satisfy a paper requirement for another field. In such a case, the student must obtain prior approval from the advisors in both fields.
- The theory field paper may not be coauthored.
- In some borderline cases in which a student does not satisfy some requirement, the instructors will reach a final determination based on the entirety of the work completed.
- Courses vary from year to year, and we encourage senior students to take/audit new classes as they are offered.

Here is a rough timeline of what you are expected to do regarding your theory field paper:

- Choose your advisor (see the list below) and start discussing ideas in January.
- Meet with your advisor regularly along with other relevant faculty (in particular, those who you wish to serve on your committee).

- Present your field paper in theory proseminar in spring.
- Submit your field paper by July 31, 2027, to Chiara Paz (chiara@econ.ucla.edu) by email.

THEORY FACULTY

Alexander Bloedel, Simon Board, Daniel Clark, Jay Lu, Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn, Ichiro Obara, Tomasz Sadzik