Milestones for a PhD in Strategy, Entrepreneurship, and Operations (SEO)

Coursework: At least 30 hours of graduate-level coursework during the first two years. SEO doctoral students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in both the SEO required courses (the first component below), and the overall courses taken (all three components below). Beyond the required courses, coursework varies to some degree depending on the student's research interests. All courses are subject to the approval of the SEO doctoral program director and the Division chair.

Component #1—Strategy and Entrepreneurship Required Courses:

- BPOL 7500   Seminar in Strategic Mgmt. 1 (Theory & Concepts)
- BPOL 7530   Seminar in Strategic Mgmt. 2 (Research)
- BPOL 7560   Seminar in Entrepreneurship

In addition, SE students are expected to participate in the PhD Pro-seminar and speaker series each semester.

Component #1—Operations Management Required Courses:

Generally, Students in Operations Management are required to take seminar courses offered by Operations group during their first two years. The following is an example but not completed list of courses:

- OPIM 7400   Stochastic Dynamic Programming with Applications
- OPIM 8820   Large Scale Optimization
- OPIM-7120   Discrete Optimization
- OPIM 7110   Simulation Modeling and Analysis
- OPIM 7330   Advanced Operations Management Modeling

Required courses for SEO is largely dependent upon the student's research interests. Students are required to work closely with the SEO doctoral program director and/or advisor to determine the most appropriate courses to take.

Component #2—A Specialization in a Foundational Discipline: Students must obtain a specialization in a foundational discipline. We recommend students with macro interests to obtain a specialization in Economics, and students with micro interests to obtain a specialization in Psychology. Students who desire to obtain a specialization in other departments (e.g., Education, Sociology, or Political Science) need to obtain approval from the SEO doctoral program director.

Component #3—Statistics and/or Quantitative Analysis: Students must obtain strong statistical and/quantitative skills. First-year students with macro interests are recommended to take the econometrics sequence offered in

the Economics department, and those with micro interests are recommended to take the statistics sequence offered in the Psychology department. First-year students who desire to take the statistics sequence in other departments (e.g., Education, Engineering, Sociology, or Political Science) need to obtain approval from the SEO doctoral program director.

Research Papers: The primary focus of a PhD is to complete and publish research that adds to the body of knowledge in the field. Research papers are required throughout the program and must be presented at division workshops and seminars. These papers may be part of coursework or may be independent research projects. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Hart Fellowship program to work with a faculty member over the summers to conduct publishable research.

Comprehensive Examination: A comprehensive examination is taken after satisfactory completion of necessary coursework. Students generally take the SEO comprehensive examination in the fall of their third year in the program. Students must contact the SEO doctoral program director in advance to know the requirements and the specific deadline. The comprehensive examination may be retaken once but must be passed prior to advancement.

Dissertation Proposal Defense: An oral defense of the dissertation proposal takes the form of a presentation to the student's dissertation committee. The proposal defense generally occurs in the third or fourth year prior to going on the job market. The proposal defense helps students receive formal feedback on their dissertation topic.

Final Dissertation Defense: A final defense of a dissertation is generally completed during the spring of the final year in the program. At the conclusion of the dissertation defense, faculty may require minor changes to the student's work, significant revision, or rejection.