Economics, B.A.

DEPARTMENT

Department of Economics

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MN in Economics, Minor
BA in Economics, B.A.
MN in International Political Economy Minor

Courses Offered

Economics is the social science that studies the way in which societies are organized to produce the goods and services that sustain and enhance the life processes of the community. As a fundamental scientific discipline, economics employs systematic analysis in the study of the production and distribution of income within and among nations. Since all social policy issues in modern societies have an economic dimension, the study of economics offers the student an opportunity to investigate the most important and exciting problems of political economy facing the world today.

Such topics as inflation, unemployment, business cycles, international trade, finance, and development have long been within the province of economics. More recently, the economic way of thinking has been extended to other areas. Economic theories have been used to explain crime rates, birth rates, class conflict, pollution, marriage decisions, migration, and many other topics involving human behavior.

Economics majors acquire skills in critical and analytical thinking that contribute to an individual's intellectual independence and self-confidence in the problem-solving processes. In addition, economics majors confront the necessity of developing a broad view of the options facing humankind in organizing the production and distribution of income. The literature of economics presents widely diverse systems of political economic philosophy. The department offers a well-developed and balanced curriculum.

The program in economics is designed to give the student maximum flexibility. A typical economics major might take courses in intermediate macroeconomic theory and statistics while also learning about global corporations in the third world, or the regional economy, or pursue an independent study project on the foundations of supply-side economics. The economics major is designed to permit the student to pursue a broad liberal arts undergraduate degree, integrating the study of economics with other social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and business administration.

REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Economics Major

ECON 40 and 50 are prerequisites for most upper-division courses in economics. Any student planning graduate work is advised to take additional mathematics.

1. Major requirements (39 units)

Core (18 units)
Lower-Division: ECON 40 and 50
Upper-Division: ECON 100A, 100B, 123, 192

Upper-Division Breadth and Application Course Selections (21 units)
Students must select one upper-division economics course from each of Categories I, II and III to be exposed to the breadth of fields of study in economics (9 units).

In addition, students must select four upper division economics courses from the remaining courses in Categories I, II, III, IV and V. (12 units).
Category I. Macroeconomics and International Economics Courses (3 units minimum)
ECON 103, 114, 135, 178, 188T

Category II. Microeconomics Courses (3 units minimum)
ECON 117, 119, 131, 144, 150, 162, 189T

Category III. Historical and Political Economics Courses (3 units minimum)
ECON 101, 110, 111, 179, 181, 183, 115T

Category IV. Cross-cutting Economics Courses
ECON 102W, 120, 125, 146, 152, 167, 176

Category V. Special Courses (3 units maximum)
ECON 185, 190 and 191

2. General Education requirements (49 units)

3. Other requirements (6 units)
Upper-division writing and Multicultural and International (MI)

4. Sufficient elective units to meet required total units (varies)
(See Degree Requirements); may be used toward a double major or minor

5. Total units (120)*

* G.E. and MI courses can be double-counted with major requirements. The writing requirement may be met by taking the upper-division writing exam. See advisor for details.

Advising Notes
1. CR/NC grading is not permitted in the economics major or minor, except for courses offered only under CR/NC grading.
2. General Education and elective units may be used toward a double major or minor (see double major or departmental minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty advisor for further information.
3. ECON 165 is not open to economics majors.
4. ECON 123 has the following prerequisite: MATH 11 or MATH 101 or DS 73 or AGBS 71 or PSYCH 42 passed with C grade or better (in addition to ECON 40 and ECON 50).

FACULTY

The faculty of the department is staffed by professors whose primary professional commitment is to undergraduate education. Every member participates in the full range of teaching assignments from moderate sized sections of economics principles to small, upper-division classes (averaging 16 students). They offer a wide variety of courses ranging from the traditional core of intermediate micro and macroeconomic theory to problem-oriented courses, as the economics of health, crime, sports, and government regulation. The background of the faculty, like its program offerings, represents a broad spectrum of intellectual tastes and professional specialties.

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.
The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.