ECONOMICS, B.A.

A major in economics gives students a greater understanding of how people, businesses, and governments respond to their economic environment. Many of the issues that fill the newspapers—jobs, wages, taxes, the cost of living, inequality, pollution, poverty, and economic growth—are, in fundamental ways, economic issues. The daily decisions of businesses and consumers are largely economic. Economists seek to understand the decisions of businesses, consumers, and current economic issues by developing a systematic and thorough understanding of precisely how the economic system operates, including the mechanisms by which resources are allocated, prices determined, income redistributed, and economic growth promoted.

The analytical method of economics recognizes that various choices are open to a society in solving its economic problems. Students are often attracted to economics as a discipline precisely because they want to understand the decisions of people and businesses and to better understand and evaluate economic policy. To begin to approach these issues as an economist requires an understanding of economic theory, empirical methodology, and an understanding of the institutional details and advanced practice gained from intensive study of specific subfields of economics. Consequently, the undergraduate economics major is organized around a progression of courses that first provides a broad introduction to economics, then develops the theoretical tools that provide the foundation of modern economic thought, and finishes with advanced courses designed to provide greater in-depth knowledge of specific fields (such as labor markets, industrial organization, international economics, public finance, banking and finance, macroeconomics, microeconomics, and econometrics).

An economics major is valuable in the job market because the major is designed to train people to think analytically and clearly about a wide variety of issues. This skill is valued by many employers. An economics major is also good preparation for graduate work in a number of areas: business, law, public policy, economics, public administration, industrial relations, international relations, urban and regional planning, and environmental studies.

HOW TO GET IN

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

1. Completion of two (2) Econ courses on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus with a 2.000 GPA.
2. A 2.000 GPA in all Econ courses and other major coursework taken at UW–Madison
3. Completion of one (1) calculus course
   • For Option B, MATH 221 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 or higher is required

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

Requirements Detail

General Education
• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
• Communication Part A & Part B *
• Ethnic Studies *
• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Mathematics
Fulfilled with completion of University General Education requirements Quantitative Reasoning a (QR A) and Quantitative Reasoning b (QR B) coursework. Please note that some majors may require students to complete additional math coursework beyond the B.A. mathematics requirement.

Foreign Language
• Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
• Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth
• Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
• Social Sciences, 12 credits
• Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include one 3+ credit course in the biological sciences; must include one 3+ credit course in the physical sciences
Economics, B.A.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework
108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work
60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major
Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits
120 credits

UW-Madison Experience
30 credits in residence, overall
30 credits in residence after the 90th credit

Minimum GPAs
2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR
Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
The department offers two major options. Students must declare one (and not more than one) of these options and complete all requirements including Residence and Quality of Work standards. Options are:

Option A: Economics provides a well-rounded major in economics that is valuable for employment following graduation, or subsequent graduate work in business, law, public policy, and related disciplines.

Option B: Economics—Mathematical Emphasis provides students with the mathematical and statistical background needed for in-depth study of the analytical aspects of economics. Its requirements are designed to prepare students for graduate study in economics and related fields, or for careers as professional economists in business or government.

OPTION A: ECONOMICS
Math and Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 221</td>
<td>Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 211</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 213</td>
<td>Calculus and Introduction to Differential Equations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 222</td>
<td>Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 234</td>
<td>Calculus–Functions of Several Variables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 275</td>
<td>Topics in Calculus I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 276</td>
<td>Topics in Calculus II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 171</td>
<td>Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; MATH 217</td>
<td>and Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry II (Or Two courses from:)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Statistics (select one):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 310</td>
<td>Statistics: Measurement in Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 credits of ECON, from:

Microeconomics & Macroeconomics (Select one):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 101</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; ECON 102</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 111</td>
<td>Principles of Economics-Accelerated Treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intermediate Theory (Select one):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 301</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; ECON 302</td>
<td>and Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 311</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; ECON 312</td>
<td>and Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment (Honors Econ)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two Advanced ECON courses: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 410</td>
<td>Introductory Econometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 435</td>
<td>The Financial System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 441</td>
<td>Analytical Public Finance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 442</td>
<td>Macroeconomic Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 448</td>
<td>Human Resources and Economic Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 450</td>
<td>Wages and the Labor Market</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 451</td>
<td>The Economic Approach to Human Behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 455</td>
<td>Behavioral Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 458</td>
<td>Industrial Structure and Competitive Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 460</td>
<td>Economic Forecasting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 464</td>
<td>International Trade and Finance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 467</td>
<td>International Industrial Organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 468</td>
<td>Industrial Organization and Imperfect Competition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 475</td>
<td>Economics of Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 503</td>
<td>Markets with Frictions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 508</td>
<td>Wealth and Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 521</td>
<td>Game Theory and Economic Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 522</td>
<td>Law and Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 101</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; ECON 102</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 111</td>
<td>Principles of Economics-Accelerated Treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 301</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Theory</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; ECON 302</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Theory and Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECON 311 & ECON 312
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment
and Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment
(Honors Econ)

Introductory Econometrics
ECON 410 Introductory Econometrics

Three Advanced ECON courses: 1
ECON 435 The Financial System
ECON 441 Analytical Public Finance
ECON 442 Macroeconomic Policy
ECON 448 Human Resources and Economic Growth
ECON 450 Wages and the Labor Market
ECON 451 The Economic Approach to Human Behavior
ECON 455 Behavioral Economics
ECON 458 Industrial Structure and Competitive Strategy
ECON 460 Economic Forecasting
ECON 464 International Trade and Finance
ECON 467 International Industrial Organizations
ECON 468 Industrial Organization and Imperfect Competition
ECON 475 Economics of Growth
ECON 503 Markets with Frictions
ECON 508 Wealth and Income
ECON 521 Game Theory and Economic Analysis
ECON 522 Law and Economics
ECON 525 Economics of Education: Theory and Measurement
ECON/POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548 The Economics of Health Care
ECON 580 Honors Tutorial in Research Project Design
ECON 623 Population Economics
ECON 666 Issues in International Finance

Additional credits to achieve 30 in the major:
Select any Advanced course (above) or one of these Applied Economics courses:
ECON/FINANCE 300 Introduction to Finance
ECON/HIST SCI 305 Development of Economic Thought
ECON/A A E/REAL EST/ URB R PL 306 The Real Estate Process
ECON/FINANCE 320 Investment Theory
ECON 330 Money and Banking
ECON/A A E/ENVIR ST 343 Environmental Economics
ECON 364 Survey of International Economics

ECON 390 Contemporary Economic Issues
ECON/REAL EST/ URB R PL 420 Urban and Regional Economics
ECON/A A E 421 Economic Decision Analysis
ECON 440 Urban and Regional Economics
ECON/ENVIR ST/ POLI SCI/ URB R PL 449 Government and Natural Resources
ECON/A A E/INTL BUS 462 Latin American Economic Development
ECON/HISTORY 465 The American Economy to 1865
ECON/HISTORY 466 The American Economy Since 1865
ECON/A A E 473 Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia
ECON/A A E 474 Economic Problems of Developing Areas
ECON/A A E 477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
ECON 502 Economics of Transportation
ECON/PHILOS 524 Philosophy and Economics
ECON/A A E/F&W ECOL 531 Natural Resource Economics
ECON/A A E 567 Public Finance in Less Developed Countries
ECON/REAL EST/ URB R PL 641 Housing Economics and Policy
ECON/SOC 663 Population and Society
ECON/A A E/ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 671 Energy Economics

Total Credits 30

1 Two Advanced ECON courses must be taken on campus (in residence, not via study abroad)

RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK
2.000 GPA in all major and ECON courses
2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major courses taken in residence
15 credits in ECON, taken on the UW–Madison campus

HONORS IN THE ECONOMICS MAJOR
Students may declare Honors in the Economics Major in consultation with the Economics undergraduate advisor(s).

HONORS IN THE ECONOMICS MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
To earn the B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in Economics students must satisfy both the requirements for the Economics–Mathematical Emphasis Option (above) and the following additional requirements:

• Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
• Earn a 3.500 GPA for all ECON courses, and all courses accepted in the major
• Complete the following courses, taken for Honors, with grades of B or better in each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 311 &amp; ECON 312</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment and Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 580</td>
<td>Honors Tutorial in Research Project Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following capstone experiences: ¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 581</td>
<td>Honors Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 681 &amp; ECON 682</td>
<td>Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis (Take for a total of 6 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Students may be allowed to substitute the following for the thesis capstone, given the explicit permission from their Economics Advisor: A course in mathematical analysis such as MATH 521 and, with instructor approval, an advanced ECON course with a grade of B or higher.

**UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**Requirements Detail**

- **Total Degree**: To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

- **Residency**: Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

- **Quality of Work**: Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students will understand the fundamental concepts of economics, and how those concepts apply to real world issues.
2. Students will be able to construct and evaluate economic models, their assumptions and conclusions.
3. Students will acquire a diverse set of skills and strategies in mathematical reasoning/statistical and computational techniques/deductive logic/problem solving.
4. Students will use mathematics/computational/statistical techniques to analyze real world situations and policies.
5. Students will use economic analysis to critically evaluate public policy proposals.

**ADVISING AND CAREERS**

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

Academic advising (http://www.econ.wisc.edu/undergraduate-academic-advising.htm), along with general information about the undergraduate major and coursework, is available in Room 7238 of the Social Science Building. Find us on the campus map (http://www.map.wisc.edu/?initObj=bdg_SocSc&z=41.33348&x=-0.158401&y=-0.09157). Email: econadvise@ssc.wisc.edu Phone: 608-262-6925

**ECONOMICS CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

The Economics Career Development Office (http://www.econ.wisc.edu/career-advising.htm) (ECDO) provides career development services and resources to undergraduate students who are either declared economics majors or are considering majoring in economics and would like career information. To set up an appointment or to ask a career/internship question please email econcareers@ssc.wisc.edu

**PREPARATION FOR PH.D. PROGRAMS IN ECONOMICS**

Students interested in pursuing graduate study should pursue Option B (mathematical emphasis) and augment the standard curriculum with higher-level mathematics and statistics courses. These may include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH/STAT 309</td>
<td>Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH/STAT 310</td>
<td>Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 421</td>
<td>The Theory of Single Variable Calculus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH/STAT 431</td>
<td>Introduction to the Theory of Probability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 521</td>
<td>Analysis I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 522</td>
<td>Analysis II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH/I SY E/OTM/STAT 632</td>
<td>Introduction to Stochastic Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to consult early in the second year with the undergraduate advisor and/or the faculty member that directs the undergraduate program to design a plan of coursework.

**DIRECTED STUDY**

Directed Study (ECON 698, ECON 699) enables advanced students to pursue economic topics not covered in the regular course offerings. A student interested in Directed Study should prepare a research proposal and/or reading list; specific course requirements are arranged with an instructor who agrees to supervise the directed study project. Enrollment requires the consent of the instructor; a GPA of 3.00 or above in ECON; completion of the Intermediate economic theory courses (ECON 301 & ECON 302); at least one Advanced ECON course; and completion of the department's Directed Study form, available in 7238 Social Science.
INTERNSHIPS

Students can earn 1 credit for approved internships appropriate to the study of economics under course ECON 228. Students must enroll for ECON 228 in the same semester/session in which the internship is granted. Students should work a minimum of 100 hours per term. Prerequisites are declaration in the major economics major; a major GPA of 2.200 or higher; completion of at least four ECON courses at UW-Madison; completion of at least one Intermediate Theory course (ECON 301 & ECON 302); a completed application; and departmental approval.

PEOPLE

Professors Blank, Corbae, Deneckere, Durlauf, Engel, Hansen, Hendricks, Kennan, Porter, Rostek, Sandholm, Scholz, Seshadri, Smith, Sorensen, Taber, Walker, West, Williams, Wolfe, Wright

Associate Professors Fu, Lentz, Penta, Quint, Weretka, Wiswall

Assistant Professors Atalay, Bilir, Freyberger, Gregory, Magnolfi, Mommaerts, Shi

Affiliated Faculty Chang, Chinn, Chung, Montgomery, Sarada, Schechter, Smeeding, Wallace