A major in economics gives students a greater understanding of how people, businesses, and governments respond to their economic environments. 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. Economics graduates go on to pursue careers in a variety of fields including finance, data analytics, and public policy. 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.

DEGREES/MAJORS/CERTIFICATES

- Economic Analytics, Certificate (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/economics/economic-analytics-certificate/)
- Economics, B.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/economics/economics-ba/)
- Economics, B.S. (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/economics/economics-bs/)

PEOPLE

FACULTY

- Aizawa, Naoki, Assistant Professor
  Labor Economics, Health Economics, Public Economics
- Blank, Rebecca, Professor
  Public Economics, Labor Economics
- Boerma, Job, Assistant Professor
  Macroeconomics, Public Finance
- Braxton Carter, Assistant Professor
  Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Consumer Finance
- Chiang, Harold, Assistant Professor
  Econometrics
- Corbæ, Dean, Professor
  Macroeconomics
- Coulibaly, Louphou, Assistant Professor
  International Finance and Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics
- Deneckere, Raymond, Professor
  Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization
- Engel, Charles, Professor
  International Economics, Macroeconomics
- Fu, Chao, Professor
  Labor Economics
- Gregory, Jesse, Associate Professor
  Labor Economics, Public Economics
- Hansen, Bruce, Professor
  Econometrics
- Hendricks, Kennan, Professor
  Industrial Organization
- Houde, Jean-Francois, Professor
- Kirpalani, Rishabh, Assistant Professor
- Lentz, Rasmus, Professor
  Labor Economics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics
- Magnolfi, Lorenzo, Assistant Professor
  Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics
- Mommaerts, Corina, Assistant Professor
  Public Economics, Labor Economics
- O'Connell, Martin, Assistant Professor
  Public Economics, Industrial Organization
- Porter, Jack, Professor
  Econometrics
- Quint, Daniel, Associate Professor
  Microeconomic Theory, Industrial Organization
- Rostek, Marzena, Professor
  Microeconomic Theory, Market Design, Finance
- Ruhl, Kim, Professor
  International Economics
- Scholz, John Karl, Professor
  Public Economics
- Seshadri, Ananth, Professor
  Macroeconomics, Public Finance
- Shi, Xiaoxia, Professor
  Econometrics
- Smith, Jeffrey, Professor
  Labor Economics, Public Economics
- Smith, Lones, Professor
  Microeconomic Theory
- Solvsten, Mikkel, Assistant Professor
  Econometrics
- Sorensen, Alan, Professor
  Industrial Organization
• Sullivan, Christopher, Assistant Professor  
  Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics
• Taber, Christopher, Professor  
  Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics, Public Economics
• Walker, James, Professor  
  Labor Economics, Econometrics
• Weretka, Marek, Associate Professor  
  Economic Theory, Finance
• West, Kenneth, Professor  
  Macroeconomics, Econometrics
• Williams, Noah, Professor  
  Macroeconomics
• Wiswall, Matthew, Professor  
  Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics,  
  Education and Demographic Economics
• Wright, Randall, Professor  
  Macroeconomics, Finance

AFFILIATED FACULTY
• Chang, Briana  
  Financial Intermediation, Information Frictions, Search and Matching  
  Theory
• Chinn, Menzie
• Chung, Kevin  
  Quantitative Marketing
• Montgomery, James  
  Economic Sociology, Religion, General Social Theory, Demography  
  and Ecology, Social Psychology and Microsociology
• Sarada  
  Economics of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
• Schechter, Laura  
  Development Economics, Behavioral and Experimental Economics,  
  Risk Analysis
• Smeeding, Timothy  
  Poverty, Intergenerational Mobility, Inequality, Wealth
• Wallace, Geoffrey  
  Labor Economics, Economics of Marriage and the Family, Policy  
  Issues Relating to Poverty

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF
• Alder, Simeon, Faculty Associate  
  Macroeconomics, Growth and Development, Matching
• Bykhovskaya, Anna, Associate Lecturer
• Chan, Stella, Lecturer
• Eudey, Gwen, Senior Lecturer  
  Open Economy Macroeconomics
• Friedman, Matthew, Lecturer
• Glawtschew, Rebecca, Lecturer
• Hansen, David, Lecturer  
  Development Economics and Labor Economics
• Hansen, Korinna, Senior Lecturer  
  Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics
• Johnson, David, Senior Lecturer
• Kelly, Elizabeth, Faculty Associate
• McKelvey, Christopher, Lecturer  
  Development Economics
• Muniagurria, Maria, Faculty Associate  
  Development Economics and International Trade
• Pac, Gregory, Senior Lecturer
• Pauley, Gwyn, Lecturer  
  Health Economics, Labor Economics
• Rick, Steven, Senior Lecturer

For a public directory of our faculty, please visit the Faculty page (https://econ.wisc.edu/faculty/) on our website.