Economics

The study of economics examines how entities from individuals to nations allocate resources to achieve objectives congruent with their desires and interests. A strong economics background can help one better predict movements in stock markets, achieve a balance between economic policy and environmental goals, recognize the costs and benefits of increased globalization including international trade, and predict how different government policies influence the business cycle.

Economic forces have had powerful effects throughout world history and so a strong background within economics can greatly increase one's understanding of the world today. Moreover, economics helps develop analytical abilities and skills such as forecasting market trends and managing financial portfolios that are attractive to a wide range of employers in both the private and public sectors. Obtaining an economics major is also beneficial to those who enter graduate programs in business, law, or any of the social sciences.

Within the major, students can specialize in different fields, including international economics, and financial economics. Both areas are rapidly increasing in importance as the world becomes more interdependent and as more people hold financial portfolios. Students specializing in general economics can also tailor a program to meet their specific interests through consultation with one of the undergraduate advisors in the department.

After meeting the requirements of the economics major and those of the College of Liberal Arts, students still have 35 hours of electives outside the department. This flexibility allows students to augment their economic training with courses that meet particular interests in areas such as business, political science, or journalism. Students can thus combine their economics degree with other disciplines so as to pursue a wide range of careers and interests.

The requirements for an economics major are given below. Economics courses at the 300-level generally require only introductory economics (ECON 240 or ECON 241) whereas those at the 400-level are more sophisticated treatments building upon ECON 340 or ECON 341. Courses taken for a pass/fail grade will not be counted toward the major without the written consent of the director of undergraduate studies within the economics department. Transfer students can receive credit towards the major from equivalent economics courses at other institutions. However, at least five economics courses must be taken at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Students are highly encouraged to discuss their major programs and career goals with a professor within the department. Undergraduates considering graduate economics programs should meet with a professor as soon as possible in order to adequately prepare for the economics and mathematical rigor of these graduate programs.

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics

Economics Major - General

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<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Core Curriculum Requirements</td>
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### College of Liberal Arts Academic Requirements

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<tr>
<td>Financial Economics Specialization Requirements</td>
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<tr>
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### Electives

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### Economics Major - Financial Economics Specialization

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<tr>
<td>Specialized courses: ECON 315 or FIN 330, and ECON 416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three electives: chosen in consultation with major advisor</td>
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### Economics Major - International Economics Specialization

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<td>International Economics Specialization Requirements</td>
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Degree Requirements | Credit Hours
---|---
Foundational courses: ECON 240, ECON 241, ECON 308, ECON 340, ECON 341 | 15
Specialized courses: ECON 329 and ECON 429 | 6
Three electives: chosen in consultation with major advisor | 9
Electives | 35
Total | 120

Economics Major - Law and Economics Specialization

Degree Requirements | Credit Hours
---|---
University Core Curriculum Requirements | 41
College of Liberal Arts Academic Requirements | 14
Law and Economics Specialization Requirements | 30
Foundation courses: ECON 240, ECON 241, ECON 308, ECON 340, ECON 341 | 15
Specialized courses: ECON 302I and ECON 350 | 6
Three electives: chosen in consultation with major advisor | 9
Electives | 35
Total | 120

Department Honors Program

Juniors and seniors who are economics majors and working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Liberal Arts may choose to enter the Departmental Honors Program. To receive departmental honors, a student must have a GPA in Economics of 3.5 or better AND: a) Complete six hours of ECON 443, Honors Research in Economics, with a grade of B or better OR b) Complete six hours of 400-level coursework within the economics department with a grade of B or better in each course. Moreover, for each of these courses the student must complete an assignment beyond that of the regular coursework asked of non-Honors students. An outline of this assignment must receive the written consent of both the instructor and the department chair for the assignment to be approved as fulfilling the requirements of the Honors Program. Successful completion of the department’s honors program is noted on the diploma and the transcript. Students receiving credit for ECON 443 may not apply ECON 301 hours toward the major. Concurrent participation in the University Honors Program is encouraged.
Economics Minor

For students majoring in other departments, a minor in economics is useful for employment in business or government and for graduate work in any of the social sciences, law, or business. A minor requires 15 hours of economics courses, including both ECON 240 and ECON 241. ECON 301 cannot be counted towards the minor. Students must obtain at least a 2.0 grade point average in the 15 hours of coursework counted towards the minor. Transfer students must take at least three economics courses at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Bachelor's and Accelerated Master's Track

Economics majors can enter an accelerated Bachelor's-Master's program in which specific courses satisfy requirements in both degrees allowing for completion of the master's in just one year after the B.A. To enter this program, students apply through the Department of Economics during their junior year and must have at least a 3.25 GPA in all coursework. Please see the Director of Graduate Studies in the Economics Department for more information.

Economics Courses

**ECON113 - Econ of Contemp Social Issues** 113-3 Economics of Contemporary Social Issues. (University Core Curriculum) The purpose of this course is to examine a number of major social issues from an economics perspective. Thus the student will be taught some basic economic concepts (tool kit) which will then be used to analyze a variety of social problems. The emphasis will be on policy. Once the causes of social problems have been analyzed, then specific policies effective in solving or dealing with the social problem will be discussed. Only one of the courses, Economics 113 or Economics 114, can count among those economics courses required for an economics major or minor.

**ECON240 - Intro To Microeconomics** 240-3 Introduction to Microeconomics. (Advanced University Core Curriculum course) [IAI Course: S3 902] Study of businesses, consumers, and the government and their effects on prices, output and income distribution. Current economic problems will be used as illustrative examples. Prerequisite: satisfaction of the University Core Curriculum mathematics requirement. Satisfies the University Core Curriculum Social Science requirement in lieu of Economics 113.

**ECON241 - Intro To Macroeconomics** 241-3 Introduction to Macroeconomics. (Advanced University Core Curriculum course) [IAI Course: S3 901] Determination of income, employment, output and price levels in the national economy; government taxation, expenditure, and monetary policies to solve problems such as inflation and unemployment. Prerequisite: satisfaction of the University Core Curriculum mathematics requirement. Satisfies the University Core Curriculum Social Science requirement in lieu of Economics 113.

**ECON301 - Economic Readings** 301-1 to 6 Economic Readings. Readings in books and periodicals in a defined field, under direction of one or more faculty members. Periodic written and oral reports. No more than three credit hours of 301 may be counted as part of the 30 credit hour economics requirements for economics majors. Special approval needed from the instructor and department chair.

**ECON302I - Hist & Phil-World's Econ Syst** 302I-3 History and Philosophy of the World's Economic Systems. (University Core Curriculum) An investigation into how economic systems coexist with, and determine, or are determined by, the political and social structures in internationally diverse countries. Utilizing both economic concepts and an institutional approach the evolution of systems in nations such as Russia, Japan, the United States, China and others will be explored.

**ECON303 - Poverty and the Economy** 303-3 Poverty and the Economy. Poverty as a study of income inequality. Economic determinants of income inequality are isolated and related to current policy proposals.

**ECON308 - Econ and Business Stats** 308-3 Economics and Business Statistics. An examination of the research methods and data analysis techniques used by economists in their analysis of economics
questions and problems including the principal statistical methods used in economic and business decision making. This course satisfies the CoLA Writing-Across-the-Curriculum requirement.

ECON310 - Labor Problems 310-3 Labor Problems. A comprehensive overview of the relation of labor to the United States economy. Included are the history of labor in the United States; analysis of institutions affecting labor; the theory of wage and employment determination; as well as analyses of unions and collective bargaining, discrimination, unemployment, and the distribution of income. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or consent of instructor.

ECON315 - Money & Banking 315-3 Money and Banking. Study of the operation of the money and banking system in the United States. Stresses Federal Reserve control of the money supply and credit conditions to combat inflation and unemployment and the operation of the commercial bank operating as a firm within the Federal Reserve System. Policy issues are examined for the regulation of the banking industry as well as for the control of the domestic money supply. Prerequisite: ECON 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON322 - Intro Economic Development 322-3 Introduction to Economic Development. An analysis of the preconditions, processes, and problems involved in economic development. Both the theory and policy relevant to development, with special emphasis on the developing or emerging economies, are stressed. Prerequisite: ECON 240 and 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON325 - Economies of Transition 325-3 Economics of Transition. This course is a survey of the problems confronting former socialist economies making a transition to a market economy. We focus primarily on the case of countries in Eastern Europe and on Russia. Students will learn to apply economic principles to understand the costs and benefits of policies including gradual versus rapid reform, price liberalization, privatization, federalist arrangements and stabilization. Prerequisite: ECON 240 and 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON329 - Intro International Economics 329-3 Introduction to International Economics. Introduction to the principles of international economics. Stresses the relationship between the balance of payments and the United States economy, the determinants of deficits and surpluses, and policy options to correct an imbalance. Prerequisite: ECON 240 and 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON330 - Public Finance 330-3 Public Finance. Effects of government spending and taxing activities on the rest of the economy. Analysis of government debt, the federal budgetary process, and various taxes used in the United States. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or consent of instructor.

ECON333 - Econ of the Environment 333-3 Economics of the Environment. Factors which lead to physical and human deterioration in a market economy. Consideration of solutions to such problems as urban decay, overpopulation, and pollution. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON334 - Health Economics 334-3 Health Economics. Factors underlying the demand for and supply of health and medical care services. Included are the market, voluntary nonprofit, and governmental sectors of the industry. Special topics are the regional coordination of hospital facilities and services, the consumer price index and the measurement and costs of control programs. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or consent of instructor.

ECON340 - Intermediate Microeconomics 340-3 Intermediate Microeconomics. A survey of theories of household, firm, and government economic behavior in the determination of competitive and non-competitive market prices. Emphasis is on understanding the United States economic system and on evaluating existing and proposed government microeconomic policies designed to improve the system. Not open to students who have had Economics 440. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or consent of instructor.

ECON341 - Intermediate Macroeconomics 341-3 Intermediate Macroeconomics. The determinants of fluctuations in aggregate economic activity, unemployment and inflation. An analysis of the behavior of consumption and investment, the impact of government monetary and fiscal policies, and factors affecting the rate of economic growth. Not open to students who have had Economics 441. Prerequisite: ECON 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON350 - Law and Economics 350-3 Law and Economics. The application of economics to the study of legal rules and institutions with an emphasis on how legal rules influence individual behavior and a
discussion of whether such rules and resulting behavior are efficient and/or equitable. Applications from property, contract, tort, and criminal law will be used. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or consent of instructor.

**ECON370 - Pacific Rim Economies** 370-3 Pacific Rim Economies. This course offers an overview of the development process, and the associated successes and failures of Pacific Rim economies during the latter half of the Twentieth Century. The course explores the forces underlying the causes and consequences of these changes, with particular emphasis on the role of the state, along with the interdependence of the financial and the real sectors, as evidenced by recent financial crises in East Asia. Prerequisite: ECON 240 and 241, or consent of instructor.

**ECON374 - Industrial Organization** 374-3 Industrial Organization. A survey of economic theories and empirical studies on the nature and consequences of business rivalry in imperfectly competitive markets. Includes such topics as oligopoly, economics of scale, natural monopoly, introductory game theory, advertising, imperfect information, spatial competition, patents, and innovation. Prerequisite: ECON 240.

**ECON390 - Topics in Economics** 390-1 to 3 Topics in Economics. This one to three credit course focuses on a specific economics topic and considers various perspectives and debates within this issue. Most readings will come from news coverage and editorials rather than textbooks. Topics need not be the same across semesters. Before registering, interested students are encouraged to inquire with the economics department what topic will be featured. Note: the determination of credit hours will not be chosen by the student but will be set by the economics department depending on how often the course will meet during the semester. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or ECON 241 with a C or better or consent of the instructor.

**ECON399 - Internship in Economics** 399-3 Internship in Economics. Internship constitutes paid or unpaid work in a firm, organization, or government office applying economic principles learned in class to real world experiences. Only one internship counted towards the economics major. Grades determined by periodic written reports. Prerequisite: successful completion of ECON 240, 241 and six additional credit hours of economics at SIUC; declared major in economics; and written approval from the Economics department.

**ECON400 - Contemporary Econ Problems** 400-3 Contemporary Economic Problems. A study of one or more contemporary economic problems. Problems chosen vary from semester to semester. Topics will be announced in advance. Not for graduate credit. Restricted to senior status and economics major.

**ECON408 - Research Methods in Economics** 408-3 Research Methods in Economics. A continuation of 308 which includes the construction, interpretation, and use of economic data. Topics include correlation, regression, decision making, index numbers, time series analysis, forecasting, and other statistical techniques used in analyzing economic and business data. This course will not count as graduate credit for economics majors. Not for graduate credit. Prerequisite: ECON 308 or equivalent.

**ECON416 - Financial Economics** 416-3 Financial Economics. Study the role of money within the financial system, and the role of the financial system itself in providing risk-sharing, liquidity and information services. An examination of the bond market, interest rates and the concepts of risk, liquidity, information costs, taxation and investment maturity. A detailed examination of financial markets, e.g., the markets for stocks, foreign exchange, and market for financial derivatives. Finally, a more detailed account of why and how financial institutions and instruments evolve. Prerequisite: ECON 315 or 341 or consent of instructor.

**ECON419 - Latin American Econ Developmt** 419-3 Latin American Economic Development. Special attention to contemporary policy issues and alternative strategies for development. Among the topics included are inflation and financial reform, international trade and economic integration, foreign investment, and agrarian reform. Prerequisite: ECON 322, or 340, or 341, or consent of instructor.

**ECON429 - International Trade & Finance** 429-3 International Trade and Finance. Analysis of the pattern and volume of world trade and capital flows; effects of trade and payments on the domestic economy; problems and methods of adjusting to change in the balance of payments. Prerequisite: ECON 340 and 341 or consent of instructor.
ECON431 - Public Finance II 431-3 Public Finance II. State and local. Analysis of the economic effects, problems, and alternative solutions concerning state and local government expenditures, revenues, and debt. Prerequisite: ECON 330 or 340 or 341 or consent of instructor.

ECON440 - Price Output & Allocatn Theory 440-3 Price, Output, and Allocation Theories. A systematic survey of theories of product prices, wage rates, rates of production and resource utilization under conditions of competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly and monopoly markets. Emphasis is on developing analytical tools useful in the social sciences. Not open to students who have had Economics 340. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or consent of instructor.

ECON441 - Contemporary Macroecon Theory 441-3 Contemporary Macroeconomic Theory. An examination in the causes of inflation, unemployment, and fluctuations in aggregate economic activity, factors affecting consumption and investment, and the sources of economic growth. Emphasis is on understanding contemporary United States macroeconomic problems and the options for fiscal, monetary and income policies facing the United States government. Not open to students who have had 341. Prerequisite: ECON 241 or consent of instructor.

ECON443 - Honors Research in Economics 443-3 Honors Research in Economics. Individual research for honors students in economics; student must be a junior or senior with a grade point average of 3.25 or better, overall and in the major. For undergraduate credit only. Not for graduate credit. Prerequisite: Mathematics 140, 150 or equivalent. Special approval needed from the departmental chair and a faculty supervisor.

ECON450 - History of Economic Thought 450-3 History of Economic Thought. An analytical study of the development of economic ideas, with special reference to historical and societal context, central thrust, and impact. Such benchmark figures as Smith, Marx, Marshall, Veblen, and Keynes are highlighted and major schools of economic thought are identified. Prerequisite: ECON 240 and 241; or 113; or consent of instructor.

ECON463 - Intro to Applied Econometrics 463-3 Introduction to Applied Econometrics. Applications of statistical tools to specific economic problems. Numerous examples will be examined in order to achieve this goal. Emphasis will be given to model misspecification, non-classical estimation techniques, data analysis, and simultaneous equations. Prerequisite: ECON 308 or equivalent or consent of instructor.

ECON465 - Mathematical Economics I 465-4 Mathematical Economics I. A systematic survey of the fundamental mathematical tools for economic analysis. Topics include functions and their properties, including derivatives and integrals. The focus is on calculus techniques for optimization and comparative statics analysis. Prerequisite: ECON 340 or 440, and MATH 140 or consent of instructor.

ECON474 - Econ Strategies for Business 474-3 Economic Strategies for Business. This course will be concerned with broad principles of microeconomics that underlie all business decision-making. The main topics discussed may include the firm's costs, pricing and research and development decisions under different market structures, price discrimination, strategies of different business practices, information, advertising, decision-making over time, and decision-making under symmetric information. Prerequisite: ECON 240 or its equivalent or consent of instructor.

ECON479 - Problems in Bus & Econ 479-3 Problems in Business and Economics. Application of economic theory and tools of analysis to practical business problems. Cost and demand functions, and forecasting are analyzed from a policy standpoint. Prerequisite: ECON 240, 308 or consent of instructor.

Economics Faculty

Becsi, Zsolt, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1991.
Dai, Chifeng, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Florida, 2003.
Fare, Rolf, Professor, Emeritus, Docent., University of Lund, 1976.
Gilbert, Scott, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California at San Diego, 1996.
Grabowski, Richard, Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Utah, 1977.
Lahiri, Sajal, Professor and Vandeveer Chair, Ph.D., Indian Statistical Institute, 1976.
Laumas, G. S., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Wayne State University, 1966.
Layer, Robert G., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Harvard University, 1952.
Mitchell, Thomas, Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Brown University, 1984.
Morshed, Akm, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Washington, 2001.
Myers, John G., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Columbia University, 1961.
Primont, Daniel A., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of California at Santa Barbara, 1970.
Sharma, Subhash C., Professor and Chair, Ph.D., University of Kentucky, 1983.
Sorensen, Andrea, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Indiana University, 2014
Sylwester, Kevin, Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1997.
Trescott, Paul B., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Princeton University, 1954.
Watts, Alison, Professor, Ph.D., Duke University, 1993.

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Catalog Year Statement:
Students starting their collegiate training during the period of time covered by this catalog (see bottom of this page) are subject to the curricular requirements as specified herein. The requirements herein will extend for a seven calendar-year period from the date of entry for baccalaureate programs and three years for associate programs. Should the University change the course requirements contained herein subsequently, students are assured that necessary adjustments will be made so that no additional time is required of them.