ECONOMICS, B.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Program Description
This major is designed for those who seek a broad understanding of the operation of the economic system and training in the methods and uses of economic analysis. Graduates are equipped for employment in many areas of business operations, labor unions, and agencies of government at all levels; and to undertake the graduate work necessary to become professional economists.

Students may choose either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science program. An honors program is also offered.

What is Economics?
Economics is the study of how individuals, firms, and governments allocate their scarce resources. This major is designed for those who seek a broad understanding of the operation of the economic system and training in the methods and uses of economic analysis. Graduates are equipped for employment in many areas of business operations, labor unions, and agencies of government at all levels; and to undertake the graduate work necessary to become professional economists.

You Might Like This Program If...
Economists advise presidents, make forecasts about unemployment and the stock market, and create Federal Reserve Bank policies. But economists also study health care, crime, environmental issues, inequality, and more. Perhaps most importantly, Economics provides knowledge and logic for making everyday decisions, big and small. This includes everything from where to eat lunch to what career you choose.

Entrance to Major
To be eligible for entrance into the Economics (ECLBA) major, a degree candidate must satisfy requirements for entrance to the major.

Specific entrance requirements include:

The degree candidate must have completed the following entrance-to-major requirements with a grade of C or better: ECON 102 and ECON 104.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits
Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements
Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Requirements for the Major
A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 18 credits in Economics 300 or 400 level with department approval, including at least 9 credits at the 400 level

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in- and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

World Campus
Undergraduate Academic Advising
301 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-3283
advising@outreach.psu.edu

Suggested Academic Plan
University Park Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102 or 104*</td>
<td>Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3 ECON 102 or 104*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30, 137H, 138T, CAS 137H, or CAS 138T (GWS)†</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language level 1</td>
<td>4 World Language level 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 104</td>
<td>Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 106</td>
<td>Statistical Foundations for Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 302</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 304</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 306</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggested Academic Plan
University Park Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102 or 104*</td>
<td>Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3 ECON 102 or 104*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30, 137H, 138T, CAS 137H, or CAS 138T (GWS)†</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language level 1</td>
<td>4 World Language level 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 104</td>
<td>Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 106</td>
<td>Statistical Foundations for Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 302</td>
<td>Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 304</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 306</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Second Year

**Fall**
- ECON 302 or 304* 3
- CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C (GWS)† 3
- General Education Course 3
- General Education Course 3
- World Language level 3 4

**Spring**
- 300/400 Level ECON Course* 3
- 400 Level ECON Course* 3
- General Education Course 3
- BA Requirement: Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Quantification or World Language 3
- Elective 3

---

**Credits**
- Fall 16
- Spring 15
- Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
# Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

### Commonwealth Campuses

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

### Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

- Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information) of this Bulletin.

### Advising Note

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

### First Year

**Fall**
- ECON 102 or 104* 3
- ENGL 15, 30, 137H, 138T, or CAS 137H, or CAS 138T (GWS)† 3
- General Education Course (GQ)‡ 3
- General Education Course (GQ)‡ 3
- World Language level 1 4

**Credits**
- Fall 16
- Spring 16

### Second Year

**Fall**
- CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C (GWS)† 3
- General Education Course (GQ)‡ 3

**Credits**
- Fall 3
- Spring 3

---

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

- US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).
- W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.
- GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.
Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

**General Education Course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 302 or 304*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 106*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Requirement: Other Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Third Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300/400 Level ECON Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300/400 Level ECON Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300/400 Level ECON Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 Level ECON Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 BA Requirements</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 120**

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section for this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses.

**Advising Note**

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

**Career Paths**

The field of Economics provides many opportunities (in both the public and private sector), as well as opportunities for graduate studies.

**Careers**

Employers know that a degree in Economics provides students with a logical way of making decisions for individuals and firms, as well as understanding the creation of policies and their consequences. Recent graduates have started private sector careers in consulting, sales, banking, and financial advising, as well as public sector careers with the FDA and DOJ. An economist will help a firm or public agency make important decisions using quantitative cost/benefit analysis, and will be able to understand how new policies will affect the firm.

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

Many schools offer graduate (both M.A. and Ph.D.) programs in Economics. In addition, with the logical thought processes learned and appropriate math background, the Economics degree will prepare students for an M.B.A. or J.D. If you are considering graduate studies in Economics, the B.S. is recommended with extra math preparation, particularly calculus and linear algebra.

**Professional Resources**

- Economics Association

**Contact**

University Park
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
403 Kern Graduate Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1457
prd138@psu.edu

http://www.econ.la.psu.edu

World Campus
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
403 Kern Graduate Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1457
prd138@psu.edu

https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/economics-bachelor-of-arts/overview