

ECONOMICS, B.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Career Paths

The economics major leads to several exciting and well-paying career opportunities in the corporate sector, the public sector, and in the nonprofit sector. This is the case because of the important skills acquired in an economics major including qualitative and quantitative analytical skills, critical-thinking skills, as well as communication skills.

Careers

In the corporate sector, economics majors help managers and decisionmakers understand the impact of economic conditions on their businesses. Economics majors analyze issues such as prices and consumer demand, which helps businesses to maximize profit.

In the public sector, economics majors can be found at the federal level as well as at the state and local levels of government. Economics graduates collect and analyze data on employment, prices, productivity, wages, and many other types of data. They also help project revenues and spending needs that help policymakers understand the impact of laws and regulations. Some economics graduates are employed in international agencies, research firms, think tanks, and other nonprofit organizations.

A recent publication by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists economics as one of the top well-paying majors overall and top among the arts and social sciences.

Economics graduates may work in various occupations including:

- Actuaries or actuarial assistants where they use mathematics and statistics to analyze financial costs of risk and uncertainty.
- Financial Analysts where they use qualitative and quantitative tools to provide guidance to businesses and individual investment decisions.
- Market research analysts where they analyze market conditions and project potential sales for a particular product or service.
- Budget analysts where they help private and public agencies plan their finances more efficiently and effectively.
- Research assistants: economics majors may help design surveys, collect data, analyze the data, prepare reports, and give presentations on a wide range of areas including health issues, labor market issues, environment, social issues, etc.
- Operations research analysts where they employ various mathematical and analytical tools to help private and public agencies solve complicated operations problems.
- Urban and Regional Planners where they help to develop land use plans to create better communities and accommodate changes in population.
- Policy analysts where they use both qualitative and quantitative analytical skills to identify a problem, analyze the issue, provide a solution, and evaluate competing potential solutions to the problem. Policy analysts may also be tasked with identifying the effects of proposed or implemented policies on various categories of people.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE ECONOMICS PROGRAM (<https://econ.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/prospective-students/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A bachelor's degree in Economics from Penn State will also prepare students for post-graduate studies in pursuit of a Master's degree or Ph.D. in Economics.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MATH PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://econ.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/care/care-quantitative-requirements/>)