

ECONOMICS, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: World Campus, University Park

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.

The B.S. degree program is intended for students with a strong interest in quantitative skills. 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 (ECLBS) 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 Science degree in Economics, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	26
Requirements for the Major	55

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

6 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

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 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

This includes 6 credits of General Education GQ courses.

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 (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
ECON 302	Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis	3
ECON 304	Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis	3
ECON 106	Statistical Foundations for Econometrics	3
ECON 306	Introduction to Econometrics	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
MATH 110 or MATH 140	Techniques of Calculus I Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	4
CMPSC 101 or CMPSC 203	Introduction to C++ Programming Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases	3-4
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits in social and behavioral sciences from department list		3
Select 6 credits in arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences from department list		6
Select 3 credits in quantification from department list		3
Select 18 credits in economics at the 300 or 400 level with department approval, including at least 9 credits at the 400 level		18

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 need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy>)

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

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ECON 102 or 104 ^{*#}	3 ECON 102 or 104 ^{*#}	3
ENGL 15, 30, 137H, 138T, CAS 137H, CAS 138T, or ESL 15 (GWS) [‡]	3 MATH 110 or 140 (GQ) [‡]	4
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
	15	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ECON 302 or 304 [*]	3 ECON 302 or 304 [*]	3
CMPSC 101, 201, or 203 (GQ) [‡]	3 300 Level ECON Course [*]	3
CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C (GWS) [‡]	3 ECON 106 [*]	3
General Education Course	3 Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List [*]	3

Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
300/400 Level ECON Course*	3 300/400 Level ECON Course*	3
ECON 306*	3 400 level ECON Course*	3
Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*	3 Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
400 Level ECON Course*	3 400 Level ECON Course*	3
Quantification from approved Department List*	3 General Education Course	3
ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS) [‡]	3 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 General Education Course	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	Elective	2
	13.5	15.5

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.

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.

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.

Commonwealth Campuses

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

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ECON 102 or 104 ^{*#}	3 ECON 102 or 104 ^{*#}	3
ENGL 15, 30, 137H, 138T, CAS 137H, CAS 138T, or ESL 15 (GWS) [‡]	3 MATH 110 or 140 (GQ) [‡]	4
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
	15	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CMPSC 101, 201, or 203 (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Course	3
CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C (GWS) [‡]	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*	3
General Education Course	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ECON 302 or 304*	3 ECON 302 or 304*	3
ECON 106*	3 ECON 306*	3
Quantification from approved Department List*	3 300 Level ECON Course*	3
Elective	3 Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
300/400 Level ECON Course*	3 400 Level ECON Course*	3
300/400 Level ECON Course*	3 400 Level ECON Course*	3

400 Level ECON Course*	3 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS)†	3 Elective	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 Elective	3
	Elective	2
	13.5	15.5

Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

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Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

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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.

MORE INFORMATION (<http://www.aftercollege.com/career-networks/pennsylvania-state-university/department-of-economics/jobs>)

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.

MORE INFORMATION (<http://econ.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/math-courses-to-take-if-considering-graduate-school-in-economics>)

Professional Resources

- Economics Association (<http://www.pseua.org>)

Contact

University Park

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

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

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