**ECONOMICS, B.S.**

**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.

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, banking, risk assessment, and agencies of government at all levels; and to undertake the graduate work necessary to become professional economists.

**You Might Like This Program If...**
You have an interest in decisions made by individuals and firms, policies made by governments, and their effects. 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:

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

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>55</td>
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</table>

6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of General Education GQ courses.

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 Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

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

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
ECON 102 | Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy | 3
ECON 104 | Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy | 3
ECON 106 | Statistical Foundations for Econometrics | 3
ECON 302 | Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis | 3
ECON 304 | Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis | 3
ECON 306 | Introduction to Econometrics | 3

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
---|---|---
CMPSC 101 or CMPSC 203 | Introduction to Programming or Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases | 3-4
MATH 110 or MATH 140 | Techniques of Calculus I or Calculus With Analytic Geometry I | 4

**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 (https://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 and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Integrative Studies
- Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration
- GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 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 (https://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.

Integrated B.S. in Economics and M.A. in Economics
Requirements for the Integrated B.S. in Economics and M.A. in Economics can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/economics/#integratedundergradgradprogramstext).

Program Learning Objectives
- Applied Economics Fields: Students will be knowledgeable about at least two applied fields in economics.
- Economic Analysis: Students will be able to apply the tools of economic analysis, and most notably the basic supply and demand model, to various issues and phenomena, dealing with individuals, firms, markets, and public policy.
- Economics Writing: Students will be able to write a paper in economics that includes economic analysis and that is coherent, cogent, and grammatically correct.
- Intermediate Theory: Students will be familiar with intermediate microeconomic theory and intermediate macroeconomic theory.
- Quantitative Economic Analysis: Students will be able to carry out quantitative analyses of economic data.

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.

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

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-
advisers/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program.

**World Campus**

**Undergraduate Academic Advising**

301 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-3283
advising@outreach.psu.edu

**Suggested Academic Plan**

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2024-25 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive(https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

### Economics, B.S. at 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>Credits</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102 or 104*#</td>
<td>3 ECON 102 or 104*#</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 (GWS)‡</td>
<td>3 MATH 110 or 140 (GQ)‡</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (First Year Seminar)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (IL or US Cultures)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (Inter-Domain)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (Inter-Domain)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3 General Education Course</td>
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**Total Credits 15**

#### Second Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 106*</td>
<td>3 ECON 302 or 304*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 302 or 304*</td>
<td>3 CMPSC 101 or 203 (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C (GWS)</td>
<td>3 300 Level ECON Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (IL or US Cultures)</td>
<td>3 Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>3 300/400 Level ECON Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 306*</td>
<td>3 400 Level ECON Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*</td>
<td>3 Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List</td>
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**Total Credits 15**

#### Fourth Year

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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (Writing Across the Curriculum)</td>
<td>3 Quantification from approved Department List*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
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**Total Credits 15**

#### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity 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.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.
Economics, B.S. at 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.

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<td>ECON 102 or 104*</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 (GWS)†</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (Writing Across the Curriculum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*</td>
<td>3 Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Science from approved Department List*</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (IL or US Cultures)</td>
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<td>ECON 302 or 304*</td>
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<td>ECON 106*</td>
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<td>3 ECON 306*</td>
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<td>Quantification from approved Department List*</td>
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### 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

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### 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/)

Contact
University Park
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
403 Kern Graduate Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1457
prd138@psu.edu
https://econ.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/

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/penn-state-online-economics-bachelor-of-science-degree/