

The Major That Opens More Doors: One Degree & Endless Opportunities.

Not sure what you want to do after college? Choose the degree that gives you the most options. Economics combines analytical thinking with real-world problem solving in a flexible major requiring only 30 credit hours. Whether your future is in finance, banking, public policy, consulting, law, or business, an economics degree opens the door.

\$89,000

Average salary reported by U.S. workers holding a B.A. in economics¹

\$115,440

Median pay in the "economist" occupation itself, May 2024²

161.7

Mean LSAT for economics majors, highest of the 20 largest majors³

THE QUESTION EVERYONE ACTUALLY ASKS

"Okay, but what job do I get?"

A fair question, and economics has an unusually concrete answer. Every field named above is on this list of places our graduates go.⁴ Notice how little overlap there is between the rows. That spread is the whole point of the major.

FINANCE AND BANKING

Federal Reserve Banks • FDIC • Commercial banks • Investment firms • Office of the State Treasurer

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

U.S. Dept. of the Treasury • U.S. Dept. of Labor • U.S. Dept. of Commerce • U.S. Dept. of Agriculture • Office of Management & Budget • Oklahoma Corporation Commission

CONSULTING AND BUSINESS

Consulting firms • Oil and energy companies • Utility companies

LAW AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Law school • M.B.A. and business • Economics M.A. and Ph.D. • Public policy

YOUR ECONOMICS COURSES COUNT TWICE

The first course you take toward the major is a course you already have to take.

Economics courses satisfy General Education requirements at the same time as they count toward the major or the minor. Nothing is wasted if you try one and walk away.

MATHEMATICS GENED ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics • ECON 4223 Econometric Analysis

SOCIAL SCIENCE GENED ECON 1113 • ECON 1123 • ECON 2033 • ECON 3113 • ECON 3713

Full General Education list at ou.edu/gened/courses.⁵

SCAN FOR MORE



Courses, advising, scholarships, how to declare, and this page as a file you can keep.

Read these honestly. "Economist" is a narrow job title. About 17,600 people in the country hold it, and most need a master's degree. The great majority of economics majors are not economists. They are analysts, lawyers, bankers, consultants, and policy staff. The B.A. figure is self reported, so treat it as a signal and not a promise. We would rather show you the caveat than the brochure number.

1. Payscale, "Bachelor of Arts (BA), Economics, Salary," updated 28 May 2026 ($n = 1,452$). Self reported convenience sample.

2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, "Economists," median annual wage, May 2024. Employment in the occupation is projected to grow 1 percent from 2024 to 2034, slower than the 3 percent average across all occupations.

3. Nieswiadomy, M., "LSAT scores of economics majors: The 2022 to 2023 class update and 7 year history," *Journal of Economic Education* 55(4), 2024. Highest among the twenty largest disciplines. Among finer groupings, mathematics and physics score higher (164.3). LSAC cautions against inferring that any one major better prepares students for the LSAT.

4. Employer and career lists are as published by the OU Department of Economics. The department does not publish placement rates or graduate salary data. 5. General Education designations per ou.edu/gened/courses.

WHAT YOU WOULD ACTUALLY STUDY

Five courses build the core. The rest is yours.

The major is 30 hours: five required economics courses, then 15 hours of electives you choose. The math requirement is one course, MATH 1643, which replaced Calculus I. Christine will confirm the requirement for your catalog year when you declare.

THE REQUIRED CORE

- ECON 1113** Principles of Economics, Macro
ECON 1123 Principles of Economics, Micro
ECON 2843 Elements of Statistics
ECON 3113 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
ECON 3133 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
MATH 1643 Functions and Modeling

MATH 1643 replaced MATH 1743, Calculus I. The catalog page is still being updated, so confirm your math requirement with Christine before you enroll. If you are headed to a Ph.D. program, take calculus anyway and take ECON 4223.

A SAMPLE OF THE 15 ELECTIVE HOURS

- Sports Economics Health Economics Game Theory
 Economics of Discrimination Economics of Education
 Behavioral and Experimental Environmental Economics
 Urban Economics Money and Banking
 Labor Problems World Economic Development
 Data Science for Economists Econometric Analysis

If you have ever argued about why tickets cost what they cost, that argument has a course number here.

15 hours

Not ready to commit?
Minor in it.

Five courses: both principles courses, one intermediate theory course, and two electives. It pairs cleanly with political science, finance, math, journalism, or pre law, and it is the cheapest way to find out whether you like this.

B.A. + M.A.

Ready to go further?
Add a master's.

The accelerated program lets you double count up to 9 hours toward both degrees and finish an M.A. in Managerial Economics with a Big Data emphasis in one extra year. It needs a 3.0 GPA and junior standing. Apply by March 1.

London

Ready for a passport?
Spend a summer there.

Economics in London runs every summer term, with two upper level electives taught by our own faculty. The courses change from year to year, and the credit counts toward your 15 elective hours, so a summer abroad does not put your degree behind.

Courses and deadlines at ou.edu/globalengagement/education_abroad.

THREE STEPS, IN ORDER OF COMMITMENT

You can start without declaring anything. Take them one at a time.

STEP ONE

Take one principles course

ECON 1113 (Macro) or ECON 1123 (Micro). Either one counts toward your General Education requirements, so it costs you nothing if you walk away.

STEP TWO

Talk to our advisor

Christine Caliendo advises every economics undergraduate. Cate Center 1, Room 156. Christine.M.Caliendo-1@ou.edu. Bring your degree plan, or bring nothing.

STEP THREE

Declare the major or minor

Thirty hours for the major, fifteen for the minor, with a C or better in each course that counts. Scholarships open once you are in: the Alexander B. Holmes and Robert Dean Bass Memorial awards.

Degree requirements per the OU academic catalog: 120 hours in total, 48 upper division hours.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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TALK TO SOMEONE

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UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

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ONLINE

ou.edu/cas/economics
 Undergraduate tab, or the code on the front.