ECONOMICS

Economics (ECO)

Major in Economics
Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences
CO-CHAIRPERSONS: William Dawes and Warren Sanderson  DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: William Dawes
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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Economics: Applied Mathematics and Statistics (AMS), Business Management (BUS), Computer Science (CSE), International Studies (INT)

Faculty

Hugo Benitez-Silva, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Yale University: Labor economics; applied microeconomics.

Sandro Brusco, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Stanford University: Economics Theory; mechanism design; finance.

Eva Carceles-Poveda, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Universitat Pompeu Fabra: Macroeconomics; financial economics.

William Dawes, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Purdue University: Econometrics; economic history. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1974.

Pradeep Dubey, Professor, Ph.D., Cornell University: Game theory; mathematical economics.

Debra Dwyer, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Cornell University: Microeconomics, health economics.

John Hause, Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago: Theory of measurement and econometric estimation in human capital; industrial organization; applied microeconomics.

Mark Montgomery, Professor, Ph.D., University of Michigan: Economic demography; development economics.

Thomas Muench, Professor, Ph.D., Purdue University: Mathematical economics; econometrics; urban economics.

Egon Neuberger, Professor Emeritus, Ph.D., Harvard University: Comparative systems; Soviet and East European economics.

Warren Sanderson, Professor, Ph.D., Stanford University: Joint appointment with History; Economic history; economic demography.

Yair Tauman, Professor, Ph.D., Hebrew University: Industrial organization; game theory.

Michael Zweig, Professor, Ph.D., University of Michigan: Political economy; labor economics. Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1991, and the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1991.

Adjunct and Visiting Faculty

Estimated number: 7

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 30

Economics is the study of production, distribution, and exchange of goods and services. It investigates such questions as price formation, degree of employment of labor and other resources, efficient use of scarce resources, and the basis and effects of government policies in the economy. Economics also analyzes, compares, and contrasts different economic systems in the world, and studies the international economic relations among countries.

The areas of study in the Department fall into three broad classifications. The first of these, microeconomics, deals with the theoretical and empirical study of the behavior and interrelationships of individual economic agents, such as firms and individuals, and their interaction through markets. Next, macroeconomics examines the large sectors of the economy such as government, business, money and banking, and international trade. It also covers such topics as unemployment, inflation, and economic growth. Finally, econometrics uses statistics to estimate, test, and predict patterns of behavior of the various units and relationships that make up the economy.

The undergraduate economics program is designed to give students a beginning sense of what economists do as well as how they think. After taking the introductory course, ECO 108, students acquire a more thorough background in economic theory by taking ECO 303 and ECO 305. The remaining economics courses used to satisfy the major requirements focus on particular aspects of economics (e.g., labor markets, industrial organization, money and banking, economic development, finance) showing how economists analyze the theoretical and empirical issues. Some upper-division courses apply statistical methods, which are taught (but not required) in the program.

Students with a degree in Economics can pursue graduate studies leading to an M.A. or Ph.D. in Economics, or to a Master of Business Administration degree. The major is also especially useful for students interested in graduate studies in such areas as law, human resources, public policy, and health economics. The majority of graduating Economics majors who continue their education either go to law school or pursue an M.B.A. A small number of graduates go to graduate school in economics. More than half the graduating seniors go directly into the job market. The great majority find entry-level positions in finance, marketing, sales, and various forms of business analysis and research. Many M.B.A. programs require applicants to have had work experience before applying to their program, so many students enter the job market temporarily and eventually return to school for an advanced degree.

Students are urged to consider enrolling in ECO 488, Internship. Internships provide opportunities for students to integrate work experience into the Economics major by doing related readings, keeping a daily journal, and writing an analytical paper under the supervision of a faculty member. To register for ECO 488, students must have the permission of the internship coordinator in the Department of Economics and the internship manager in the Career Center. For further information, students should contact the Internship Coordinator in the Department.

http://www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin 177
Courses Offered in Economics
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

ECO 108-F  Introduction to Economics
ECO 303-F  Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
ECO 305-F  Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
ECO 310  Basic Computational Methods in Economics
ECO 316-K  U.S. Class Stucture and Its Implications
ECO 317  Marxist Political Economy
ECO 320  Mathematical Statistics
ECO 321  Econometrics
ECO 325  International Economics
ECO 326  Industrial Organization
ECO 327  Health Economics
ECO 328  Regional Economics
ECO 329  Urban Economics
ECO 334-J  Demographic Economics of Developing Countries
ECO 335  Economic Development
ECO 337  Labor Theory
ECO 339-J  China's Economy Since 1949
ECO 345  Law and Economic Issues
ECO 348  Analysis for Managerial Decision Making
ECO 351-354, 356-357  Special Topics in Economics
ECO 355  Game Theory
ECO 358-J  Topics in Developing Economics
ECO 360  Money and Banking
ECO 362  Financial Economics
ECO 365-J  Economics of Environment and Natural Resources
ECO 366  Public Finance
ECO 380  Corporate Finance
ECO 475, 476  Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II
ECO 487  Independent Research in Economics
ECO 488  Internship in Economics

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Economics

Freshman Fall Credits
First Year Seminar 101 1
D.E.C. A 3
MAT 122 or 123 or AMS 151 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Total 16

Sophomore Fall Credits
ECO 303 4
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Elective 3
Elective 3
Total 16

Junior Fall Credits
Upper-Division ECO 3
Upper-Division ECO 3
D.E.C. 3
D.E.C. 3
Upper-Division elective 3
Total 15

Senior Fall Credits
Upper-Division ECO 3
Upper-Division ECO 3
D.E.C. 3
Upper-Division elective 3
Upper-Division elective 3
Total 15

Requirements for the Major in Economics (ECO)

The major in Economics leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 39 credits.

A. A minimum of 11 courses, at least nine of them in economics, distributed as follows:
   1. ECO 108 Introduction to Economics
   2. Intermediate economics courses:
      ECO 303 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
      ECO 305 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
   3. Six additional courses in economics at the 300 level and above. Each of these must be taken for a minimum of three credits.
   4. Two additional courses, either in economics or from a list of pre-approved electives in other departments, each with a minimum of three credits.

Note: No more than two 400-level courses will count toward fulfillment of major requirements.

B. MAT 122 Overview of Calculus with Applications
   or MAT 123 Introduction to Calculus
   or AMS 151 Applied Calculus I
   or level 4 on the mathematics placement examination
   or any higher level calculus course (See Note 2)
C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement:
Students should meet the upper-division writing requirement before the end of the junior year, demonstrating their competence in writing for the discipline by obtaining a satisfactory evaluation of their writing from the faculty instructor of any upper-division ECO course except ECO 320. Where a term paper or other major writing assignment is a required part of the course, this work will form the basis of evaluation. When the course involves no major writing assignment, the instructor will assign a special paper for those students in the class seeking to satisfy the writing requirement. In these cases, the number of students who will be permitted to seek evaluation may be limited.

Students must request permission from the instructor at the beginning of the semester to use the course for this evaluation. Only students with a declared major in Economics or with an Economics concentration in either the multidisciplinary studies major or the social sciences major may apply to have their writing evaluated. Students who fail to fulfill the requirement on their first effort must do so in a subsequent semester before graduation.

Notes:
1. Students who need to take MAP 103 will be unable to take ECO 108 in the first semester of the freshman year and will have to adjust their schedule accordingly.
2. Economics is a quantitative social science. Students planning to use their background in economics for graduate studies or in their careers should take additional courses in mathematics and applied mathematics.
3. A maximum of four courses in economics taken at other institutions may be applied toward the major.

Independent Research
Students are encouraged to explore advanced subjects in economics through independent research supervised by a faculty member. Typically, an independent research project will emerge after a student has taken an upper-division ECO course that provides a foundation of knowledge and a relationship with a faculty member. The student should formulate the research project in consultation with the supervising faculty member before the end of the semester in which the research is undertaken for credit through ECO 487. The project should culminate in a substantial written paper. Credit is variable, and will be awarded on the basis of the University’s guideline that one credit should involve about four hours per week of work. Outstanding work will be featured in the annual university undergraduate achievement celebration.

Internships
Students are encouraged to explore opportunities for study in the context of an internship in a business, government, social service agency, or union setting. Note that an internship for credit through ECO 488 is an academic undertaking; it is not the same as involvement in what the employing agency may call an internship.

An ECO 488 internship for credit provides an opportunity for the student to integrate work experience into the Economics major by doing related readings, keeping a daily journal reflecting on the lessons learned at work, and writing an analytical paper under the supervision of an ECO Department faculty member. Essentially, an internship for credit is an independent research project undertaken in the context of a work environment that provides the student with access to data, people, and experience that will make the study of some economic issue possible. Students are encouraged to base the internship study on an upper-division ECO course that has provided basic knowledge and analytic tools appropriate to the work setting. Credit is variable, depending upon the time involved.

To enroll for internship credit in ECO 488, a student must have the approval of a supervising faculty member in the Department of Economics and permission of the internship manager in the University’s Career Center. This will involve acknowledgment and cooperation from the employing agency. Permission must be arranged before the start of the semester in which the student enrolls in ECO 488. The academic component of the internship must be done at the same time as the work component in the business or agency in which the student works.

Honors in Economics
Qualified students can graduate with honors in Economics. As specified below, the requirements include an honors thesis approved by the Department’s director of undergraduate studies. Qualified students interested in graduation with honors are urged to enroll in upper-division economics courses that provide them with the opportunity to write research papers which may be submitted for consideration as an honors thesis. For further information, students should contact the director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Economics.

Honors in Economics will be awarded to graduating seniors who have achieved the following:
1. A grade point average of at least 3.25 in the four required courses (A. 1., 2.), with no less than a B in any one of these courses.
2. A grade point average of at least 3.50 in any four electives in economics at the 300 level.
3. Six credits in economics at the 400 level

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