

Economics

The study of economics, as with the other social sciences, attempts to explain various types of human behavior and the impact that society's institutions have in determining that behavior. Of particular interest are the forces that determine an economy's pattern of production, employment, distribution of income, poverty, and its relationship to the global economy.

Economics at SUNY Potsdam is an integral part of the liberal arts. The department's primary goal is to cultivate patterns of inquiry that produce economic literacy, independent thinking, and a commitment to lifelong learning and a socially responsible life.

A major in economics offers a background for careers in law, journalism, finance and consulting, government and international affairs, teaching, industrial relations, public service, and many others. The major also provides the essential first stage for students interested in graduate work in economics, and a solid foundation for the graduate study of business and the law.

Liberal Arts Benefits

One benefit of a liberal arts degree is that it affords the student a broad background. Many employers and graduate schools prefer candidates who have a broad, liberal arts background including strong communication skills, a worldly understanding of social, political, economic issues, and a knowledge of more than one specialized fields.

For this reason, economics students are encouraged to complement their degree with additional appropriate courses in history, mathematics, politics, psychology, sociology, and communication.

- Economics plus Communications -- Writing about economics, Journalism.
- Economics plus Psychology -- Individual and organizational decision making and behaviors. Management Science, Decision Science. Market analysis.
- Economics plus Politics -- Public administration in local, state, and federal government. Law School.
- Economics plus Mathematics -- Actuarial Science, Forecasting and Statistical Analysis. Operations Research
- Economics plus Business Administration -- Management, Finance, MBA

Careers and Graduate Study

Economics teaches the student a way of thinking that is clear, logical, analytical and rigorous. An economics degree is widely recognized as a solid preparation for many professional careers in business, finance, non-profit organizations, and government. Our program is designed to prepare students to participate as career professionals and citizens.

Recent graduates from our Department are now working for many nationally known companies such as Eastman Kodak, Franklin Bank, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, United Airlines, and Northrop Grumman. The specialized courses such as Public Finance, Money and Banking, and Econometrics lead to careers in:

- Commercial Banking
- Investment Banking
- Insurance Adjuster
- Market Analysis
- Brokerage Security Sales
- Cost Analyst
- Budget Analyst
- Business Economist
- Transportation Planning
- Forecasting
- Market Research
- Commodity Analysis
- Census Bureau
- Tax Analysis
- E-commerce

Graduate Studies

In addition to providing preparation for a variety of entry-level positions in business and government, the program also offers excellent preparation for graduate work in business, government, and law. Many of our students continue their studies and are now working on graduate degrees.

- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
- Law School

Major Requirements

30 semester hours required.

Required Courses:	Credits
ECON 105 Principles of Microeconomics	3
ECON 110 Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECON 355 Intermediate Microeconomics	3
ECON 360 Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
ECON 492 Senior Seminar	1

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Elective Courses:

18 hours (choose any six):

- Any economics lecture course may be used as an elective.
- Only one lower division elective may be counted for the major.
- Special topics in economics (ECON 195, 295, 395 or 495) will usually count as an elective.
- ECON 490 (Legislative Internship) and 491 (Internship) may not be used to fulfill elective requirement.
- A list of qualified electives is kept in the department office.

Total 31

Related Courses:

STAT 100, MATH 125, or equivalent course	3
COMP 201 Intermediate Writing	4

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Special Notes:

1. Economics majors must earn a minimum grade of 2.0 in every course counted toward the major (required, elective and related courses).
2. Students do not have to take ECON 105 and 110 in sequence. Students must receive a grade of 2.0 or higher in each appropriate prerequisite before taking upper-division economics courses.

3. Students may not count more than three lower-division courses toward the 30 credit hour requirement for the Economics major. These include ECON 105 and 110.
4. Students may not double-count more than two common courses between any majors and minors in the Department of Economics and Employment Relations and the Department of Business Administration. Cognate requirements are excluded from this rule.
5. Transfer students are expected to meet the same major requirements as non-transfer students. Fifteen hours of the major work must be completed at Potsdam.

Internships

An internship is when you work at an organization in a position related to your major, and receive college credit in return. Internships may be full or part-time, paid or unpaid, and vary in length from a summer to a semester, or even an academic year. The Department of Economics and Employment Relations does not require their students to participate in an internship, but you should still consider one.

Internships can help you in many ways. They can provide you with:

- Career Exploration Opportunities - The chance to explore whether your interests, skills, personality, and values fit within a particular career field or work environment.
- Skill Development - Enhancement of needed skills, increased self-confidence, and a better understanding of a particular position.
- Related Work Experience - The ability to show employers that you do have experience in a field related to your major.
- A network of contacts - Establishment of relationships with people who work in your field, who can help you as you enter employment.
- References - Supervisors and professionals who can provide you with verbal and written recommendations.

Economics Electives Courses

ECON 120	The Modern Economy	ECON 365	History of Economic Thought
ECON 300	Statistical Methods in Economics	ECON 375	Mathematical Economics
ECON 301	Local and State Economy	ECON 380	Introduction to Econometrics
ECON 302	Changing World Economy	ECON 401	Financial Economics
ECON 303	Health Economics	ECON 406	Managerial Economics
ECON 306	American Economic History	ECON 420	Labor Economics
ECON 307	Forecasting and Data Modeling	ECON 441	Money and Banking
ECON 311	European Economic History	ECON 450	International Economics
ECON 316	Comparative Economic Systems	ECON 460	Industrial Organization
ECON 321	Economic Development of Nations	ECON 470	Economics of the Public Sector
ECON 326	Current Economic Policy		

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