

Economics



Through studying economics you will learn how individuals, businesses and governments make choices about using resources and how incentives influence these choices. Understanding economics will provide insight into historical trends, today's headlines and tomorrow's issues.

You will learn how economic thinking is applied to many areas. In microeconomics you'll study individual decision making, while in macroeconomics you'll study the nation's GDP, unemployment rate, inflation and interest rates. You can focus your studies on particular sectors, such as financial, labor, international trade or public economics. With exposure to several areas and basic business skills, economics majors build a strong foundation for their careers.

Student Opportunities

The Economics Student Association brings together students with an interest in economics to promote economic education, to further economic knowledge, and to build a professional network among current members and alumni. The Department of Economics sponsors **ECON**ference, an annual event showcasing student research.

Research Opportunities

Our programs offer research opportunities through independent study and undergraduate research courses, as well as internships. The department also requires completion of a capstone research paper to give our majors a hands-on experience conducting research on an economic topic.

Distinguished Faculty

Our undergraduates have excellent access to a distinguished faculty. Because we offer graduate programs at the masters and doctoral levels, our faculty consists of distinguished specialists in fields such as financial economics, public economics, labor economics, econometrics, and macroeconomics and monetary policy.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Economics

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts program provides students with a strong intuitive understanding of the role economic incentives play in shaping society, and in the role society plays in shaping incentives. The foreign language requirement of the Bachelor of Arts degree prepares you for international opportunities.

The Bachelor of Science program adds an emphasis on statistical and quantitative methods for modeling and evaluating the economic behavior of individuals, businesses, or governments. An emphasis in Financial Economics is offered in the B.S. program for students who wish to study the economics of the financial sector.

Both degree programs provide excellent preparation for employment in business, government, or foreign services, for law school, or for graduate studies in business administration or public policy. The Bachelor of Science program provides stronger preparation for graduate study in economics.



Major Requirements

CORE (regardless of B.A. or B.S.):

ECON 260: Principles of Microeconomics (3)*
ECON 261: Principles of Macroeconomics (3)*
ECON 360: Intermediate Microeconomics (3)
ECON 361: Intermediate Macroeconomics (3)

For the B.A. Degree:

Fulfillment of B.A. foreign language requirement (0-12)
STAT 100 Basic Statistics* (3)
OR STAT 200: Elementary statistics (4)
OR UBUS 223: Intro to Business Statistics (3)
Six upper level ECON courses (18)
ECON 492: Research Methods in Economics (3)
Total hours: 36-49

For the B.S. Degree:

CSCI 210 Elementary Programming (4)
OR CSCI 240: Computer Programming in C++ (4)
ECON 390: Basic Econometrics (3)
ECON 390A: Basic Econometrics Lab (1)
Five upper level ECON courses (15)
ECON 492: Research Methods in Economics (3)

For the B.S. Degree, complete one of the following groups:

Group 1:

MATH 210 Finite Mathematics* (3)
MATH 211: Calculus for Business and Social Science* (3)
STAT 200: Elementary Statistics (4)

Group 2:

MATH 229: Calculus I* (4)
MATH 230: Calculus II (4)
STAT 300: Intro to Probability and Statistics (3)

Total hours: 49

Recommendations:

We strongly recommend that students planning to pursue an advanced degree in economics select group 2 of the B.S. requirements. Students are also urged to take:

ECON 490: Economic Statistics and Econometrics (3)
ECON 491: Mathematical Methods for Economics (3)

*To further the careers of our B.S. majors, the Department of Economics offers an **Accelerated B.S./M.A. in Economics** in which junior economics majors earning the B.S. degree may qualify to earn both the B.S. and Master's degree in five years.*

**Available for general education credit*

Contact Information

Department of Economics
Zulauf Hall 515
815-753-8413

niu.edu/econ

Internship Opportunities

Our department offers the opportunity to gain hands-on workforce experience by granting undergraduate credit for approved student internships.

You will need to submit an application for ECON 494: Internship in Economics.

Career Opportunities

Students who major in economics possess extremely important skills that are highly valued in today's job market. Our students compete successfully for many entry-level professional positions in financial services, marketing, manufacturing, insurance, and real estate. In addition, some students choose to work in the public sector.

Some of the job titles held by economic majors include:

Market analyst
Micro economist
Mutual Fund representative
Real estate agent
Risk analyst
Urban planner
Policy analyst
Business forecaster
Operations manager
Research assistant
Statistician
And many more!

To some extent, all of these jobs require the analytical skills possessed by individuals with a background in economics.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of economists is expected to grow 20-30 percent in the near future due to the continued need for economic analysis.

