

COMMON ADVISING QUESTIONS

The Department of Economics Welcome You to The Economics Major/Minor!
Below are some commonly asked questions for your major advisors

- **What's the difference between B.S. and B.A.?**

Generally speaking, B.A. degree is more theoretical and B.S. degree emphasizes more on practical skills. Our B.A. and B.S. degrees require same ECON core courses (ECON 260, 261, 360, 361). The major difference is that a B.S. degree requires more math, programming and econometrics classes and a B.A. degree requires foreign language classes. Which degree is better for you depends upon your interests and your plans after graduation. Please see the [B.A. and B.S. checklist](#) for detailed degree requirements.

- **Can I do substitution in Major/Minor using transfer work?**

For each transferred class you feel should be considered equivalent to an NIU course but did not transfer in as the required course for the major, you can submit an [Adjustment or substitution of transfer coursework form](#) with a course syllabus attached for the Chair of the Department to review. Depending on the required NIU course, the request form should be submitted to the corresponding course department. Here are some frequently asked offices.

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| o Department of Economics | Zulauf Hall 515 | Phone (815) 753-1031 |
| o Division of Statistics | Dusable Hall 366 | Phone (815) 753-6714 |
| o Department of Mathematical Science | Watson Hall 320 | Phone (815) 753-0566 |
| o Department of Computer Science | | Phone (815) 753-0378 |

- **Which course should I take?**

Please see the [ECONOMICS AS A MAJOR FORM](#). We list some course suggestions for upper level ECON electives based on interests. However, you may pick and mix any upper level ECON courses to meet your upper level electives requirement. Reminder: ECON 360 and ECON 361 are not electives for majors. They are considered part of the Core Requirements.

- **How do I check pre-requisite?**

All Economics courses with a brief description and pre-requisites information are listed in the catalog. If you do not have a catalog book, you can check the online catalog at <http://catalog.niu.edu/>. You can also find a course description and pre-requisite requirements in the search for classes system in myNIU. When you reach the "Search Results" page, click at the class number and you will be directed to a "Class Detail" page.

- **How do I get a Minor in Economics?**

To obtain a minor in Economics, you need to finish ECON 260, ECON 261 and four more upper level(300/400) ECON electives. Please see the [ECONOMICS AS A MINOR FORM](#). We list some course suggestions for upper level ECON electives based on interests.

- **How do I join Economics Student Association (ESA)?**

All ECON major/minor students are welcomed to join our Economics Student Association (ESA). Just come to our meetings and sign up for it!

- **Can I get credit for an internship?**

Yes! Economics Department offers ECON 494 –Undergraduate Internship which is a 3 credits upper level course. It can count as one ECON upper level elective. Please see the [Internship handout](#) for more eligibility and more useful information.

- **What's the capstone?**

The Department of Economics requires all B.S. and B.A. economics majors to complete a capstone research paper in conjunction with any 400-level economics course. In this paper the student is expected to demonstrate a satisfactory ability to analyze an economic issue or problem and explain their findings effectively in writing.

- **Who should I contact if I have more questions?**

Our advising office is located at Zulauf Hall 501. Please ask the main office for walk-in advising hours. Or you can send emails to Econadvising@niu.edu

Here is the contact information of our Undergraduate Coordinator. Her assistant is also available for advising.

Tammy Batson, Undergraduate Coordinator

Office: ZH501

Phone: (815) 753-8413

E-mail: Econadvising@niu.edu

Kristen Vrona Assistant Undergraduate Advisor

Office: ZH501

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