



Economics

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Introduction

Economics is a social science that is based on history, mathematics, and philosophy. The degree program trains students to look at the economy in an orderly, logical way so that a plan of action can be implemented to solve problems. Some economists are researchers who use theoretical models or benefit cost analysis to predict and identify the causes and impacts of supply and demand in particular markets. These markets include business, energy, healthcare, finance, agriculture, labor education environment and many others. Other economists will focus on “economic policies” and will apply their knowledge toward developing governmental policies on spending, as well as investigate the feasibility of proposed and existing policies. To obtain the data they need, economists develop procedures for conducting surveys using sampling techniques. After the data is collected, the economist will compile, analyze, and interpret the information into report form, requiring developed skills in mathematics, computers, graphics, and communication (written and oral). Econometric modeling techniques are widely used.

What are some potential occupations?

Account Executive
Actuary
Appraiser
Bank Officer
Business Manager
Commercial Lender
Consumer Researcher
Credit/Loan Officer
Economist
Employment Researcher
Financial Analyst
Industry Analyst
Investment Banker
Labor Relations Specialist
Merger/Acquisition Associate
Mortgage Lender
Operations Manager
Property Manager
Security Analyst
Senior Loan Officer
Social Welfare Researcher
Statistician
Telecommunications Manager
Trust Officer
Urban Planner

What are some of the job tasks?

- Administrative work
- Consulting and teaching
- Develop and conduct research strategies
- Interact with computers using different software packages
- Prepare charts and graphs
- Review and analyze data
- Write and prepare reports for presentations

What are some desirable personal qualities?

- An attention to detail
- An ability to work independently and as a team member
- An ability to be systematic and objective
- Effective communication skills
- Intellectual curiosity
- An ability to analyze and interpret data
- An ability to creatively solve problems

Additional information

Experience acquired through cooperative education or internships can prove valuable in obtaining professional positions.

Recommended undergraduate courses and electives include organizational behavior, consumer behavior, income tax, legal environment of business, real estate, mathematics, computer applications, marketing, technical writing, finance, and market analysis and research.

Graduates with advanced degrees will have the best job possibilities in specialty positions.

Who hires?

- Advertising Agencies
- Banks/Investment Firms
- Business Firms
- Civic/Taxpayer Associations
- Colleges/Schools
- Environmental Associations
- Government Agencies
- Market Research Firms
- Public Relations Firms
- Regional Planning Councils
- Trade Associations

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