

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Economics (BA, BS)

Economists study how people make choices in life when scarcity limits what is available and provides incentives to induce efficient behavior. They look at a society's financial, industrial, and labor organizations; its distribution of income and ownership rights; its governmental activities; and its political and economic philosophies, and analyze how these and other factors influence the goods an economy produces, the resources it uses in production, and the distribution of its output. They also look at how incentives affect decisions relating to human behavior, such as whether to obey the law, get married, or have children.

Economic analysis leads to explanations, predictions, and policy suggestions. How are wages and prices set? Why do some cities boom while others decline? Why do we have an energy crisis? How should we use our exhaustible resources? How will consumers and corporations react to a tax cut? How can the crime rate be reduced? If we are to use our resources efficiently, what antitrust and government regulations should be enforced? What can be done to reduce inflation and unemployment? To prevent excess pollution? To achieve economic growth? To distribute income more equitably? In examining these sorts of questions, economics helps us to understand more clearly the choices available to us and the consequences of our decisions.

There is an abundance of career opportunities for an economics major.

Careers in business include consulting, banking and other financial institutions, insurance, corporate strategic planning, real estate, journalism, management, marketing, and public utilities.

Careers in government include consulting, publicly owned utilities, planning and forecasting, regulatory agencies, management, needs assessment, legislative staffs, judicial agencies, and executive support.

Careers in the interfacing of business and government include labor arbitration, regulation, environmental planning, urban and regional planning, and interest representation.

Economics is an excellent preparation for a career in law.

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours¹

Communication (6 hours)

3 hours Communication ([RHET 1302](#))

3 hours Communication Elective ([ECON 3330](#), [ECON 4332](#), or [ECON 4382](#))²

Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)

6 semester credit hours Government ([GOVT 2301](#) and [GOVT 2302](#))

6 hours American History ([HIST 1301](#) and [HIST 1302](#))

3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective ([SOC 1301](#), [SOC 2319](#), [CRIM 1301](#), or [CRIM 1307](#))²

Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)

3 hours Fine Arts ([ARTS 1301](#))

3 hours Humanities ([HUMA 1301](#))

Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)^{2, 3, 4}

3 hours Mathematics (at or above the level of College Algebra)

3 hours Quantitative Reasoning ([STAT 1342](#) or [EPPS 3405](#) [recommended])

Science (9 hours including at least one course with a substantial laboratory component)

II. Major Requirements: 46 hours

Major Preparatory Courses (7 hours beyond Core Curriculum)

[ECON 2301](#) Principles of Macroeconomics⁵

[ECON 2302](#) Principles of Microeconomics⁵

[STAT 1342](#) Statistical Decision Making^{2, 4}

or [EPPS 3405](#) Introduction to Social Statistics with Lab^{2, 4}

Major Core Courses (12 hours)

[ECON 3304](#) Basic Techniques for Economic Research⁵

[ECON 3310](#) Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

[ECON 3311](#) Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

[ECON 4320](#) Public Sector Economics

One of the following:

[ECON 3330](#) Economics of Health²

[ECON 4332](#) Energy and Natural Resource Economics²

[ECON 4382](#) International Finance²

Major Related Courses (27 hours)

27 hours upper-division ECON courses

III. Elective Requirements: 32 hours

Electives (6 hours)

All students are required to take at least six hours of electives outside their major field of study. These must be either upper-division classes or lower-division classes that have prerequisites.

Free Electives (26 hours)

This requirement may be satisfied with lower- and upper-division courses from any field of study. Students must complete at least 51 hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

Minor in Economics (18 hours)

For a minor in Economics, students must take [ECON 2301](#), [ECON 2302](#), either [ECON 3310](#) or [ECON 3311](#), and nine hours of ECON electives. Electives may be any upper-division course with the ECON prefix with the exception of [ECON 4V97](#), [ECON 4V98](#), and [ECON 4V99](#).

Bachelor of Science in Economics

Degree Requirements (120 hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours¹

Communication (6 hours)

3 hours Communication ([RHET 1302](#))

3 hours Communication Elective ([ECON 3330](#), [ECON 4332](#), or [ECON 4382](#))²

Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)

[6 semester credit hours Government \(GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302\)](#)

6 hours American History ([HIST 1301](#) and [HIST 1302](#))

3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective ([SOC 1301](#), [SOC 2319](#), [CRIM 1301](#), or [CRIM 1307](#))²

Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)

3 hours Fine Arts ([ARTS 1301](#))

3 hours Humanities ([HUMA 1301](#))

Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)_{2, 3, 4}

3-4 hours Mathematics ([MATH 1325](#) or [MATH 2413](#) or [MATH 2417](#))

3-4 hours Quantitative Reasoning ([STAT 1342](#) or [EPPS 3405](#) [recommended])

Science (9 hours including at least one course with a substantial laboratory component)

II. Major Requirements: 54 hours

Major Preparatory Courses (12 hours beyond Core Curriculum)

[ECON 2301](#) Principles of Macroeconomics₅

[ECON 2302](#) Principles of Microeconomics₅

[MATH 2417](#) Calculus I_{2, 4}

or [MATH 1325](#) Applied Calculus I_{2, 4}

[MATH 2419](#) Calculus II

or [MATH 1326](#) Applied Calculus II

or [MATH 2414](#) Integral Calculus

[STAT 1342](#) Statistical Decision Making_{2, 4}

or [EPPS 3405](#) Introduction to Social Statistics with Lab (recommended)_{2, 4}

Major Core Courses (15 hours)

[ECON 3310](#) Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

[ECON 3311](#) Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

[ECON 4320](#) Public Sector Economics

[ECON 4351](#) Mathematical Economics

[ECON 4355](#) Econometrics

One of the following:²

[ECON 3330](#) Economics of Health²

[ECON 4332](#) Energy and Natural Resource Economics²

[ECON 4382](#) International Finance²

Major Related Courses (27 hours)

27 hours Economics upper-division ECON courses

Optional Major Core Concentrations (9 hours)⁶

Green Economics

One course from:

[ECON 4333](#) Environmental Economics

[ECON 4336](#) Environmental Economic Theory and Policy

Two additional courses from:

[ECON 4320](#) Public Sector Economics

[ECON 4332](#) Energy and Natural Resource Economics

[ECON 4333](#) Environmental Economics

[ECON 4336](#) Environmental Economic Theory and Policy

International Economics

Both of the following:

[ECON 4360](#) International Trade

[ECON 4382](#) International Finance

Select one course from:

[ECON 3369](#) Political Economy of Terrorism

[ECON 4362](#) Development Economics

[GEOG 3370](#) Global Economy

[GEOG 3372](#) Population and Development

Business Economics

Three courses from:

[ECON 3312](#) Money and Banking

[ECON 4301](#) Game Theory

[ECON 4310](#) Managerial Economics

[ECON 4340](#) Labor Economics and Human Resources

[ECON 4345](#) Industrial Organization

[ECON 4355](#) Econometrics

[ECON 4385](#) Business and Economic Forecasting

III. Elective Requirements: 24 hours

Electives (6 hours)

All students are required to take at least six hours of electives outside their major field of study. These must be either upper-division classes or lower-division classes that have prerequisites.

Free Electives (18 hours)

This requirement may be satisfied with lower- and upper-division courses from any field of study. Students must complete at least 51 hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation. Note: students may need more than 18 hours, depending on the mathematics sequence selected.

Minor in Economics (18 hours)

For a minor in Economics, students must take [ECON 2301](#), [ECON 2302](#), either [ECON 3310](#) or [ECON 3311](#), and nine hours of ECON electives. Electives may be any upper-division course with the ECON prefix with the exception of [ECON 4V97](#), [ECON 4V98](#), and [ECON 4V99](#).

1. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parentheses are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.
2. A Major requirement that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Hours are counted in Core Curriculum.
3. Students wishing to pursue Master's or PhD degrees in economics should consult their advisor about appropriate mathematics and quantitative methods courses.
4. Three hours are counted under Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning core, and one hour is counted under Major Preparatory Courses.
5. Indicates a prerequisite class to be completed before enrolling for upper-division classes in Economics and Finance.
6. Hours to be counted as part of major related courses.

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