

What can I do with a degree in... Economics?

The Department of Economics and Legal Studies in Business offers Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Economics. The department provides high quality instructional programs that prepare graduates for careers in business, government, non-profit, and education. Economists use modern tools of logical and quantitative analysis to study the problems of scarcity, poverty, insecurity, and instability. The principles and theories derived from this study form the basis for making sound business, government, and personal decisions.

Economics majors develop the following skills:

Students focus on logical cause-and-effect relationships that reveal significant connections while ignoring other features of a phenomenon.

Logical Analysis: Logical thought and analysis used in solving problems underlies an economist's ability to understand economic phenomena.

Observation and Inference from Data: Many programs use algebra and some use calculus as tools for understanding economic events. Developing skill in translating between mathematical models and observed economic phenomena is usually essential.

Oral and Written Communication Skills: The ability to create and interpret a chart and being able to write thoughtfully and clearly is the best way to show an understanding of economic theory and concepts and to present ideas. The ability to build an argument in the form of an essay and conduct oral presentations also plays a role.

Depending on your desired career path, additional skills may need to be developed to be competitive in the marketplace upon graduation. Make an appointment with a career consultant to design your individual career development plan.

College of Arts & Sciences Career Success E-Guide

Provided to all new, incoming students as an introduction to career planning process
If you don't have an E-Guide...Get one!!!
Visit the A&S Career Services Office

Questions?

College of Arts & Sciences Career Services
Student Success Center, LSE 2nd Floor
Stillwater, OK 74078-3016
Visit the A&S website to make an appointment to see a Career Consultant @
<http://ascareers.okstate.edu>

Build Skills Beyond the Classroom:

- Join related clubs, professional associations, & organizations
- Athletics/Sports
- Military
- Part-time Employment (Summer/Work Study)
- Internships/Job Shadowing
- Travel/Work Abroad
- Volunteer/Community Service

Job & Internship Web Sites

- **Inomics-The Internet Site for Economists**
<http://www.inomics.com/cgi/show>
- **American Economics Association**
<http://www.aeaweb.org/>
- **National Association for Business Economics**
<http://www.nabe.com/>
- **America's Job Bank**
<http://www.jobsearch.org/>
- **American Law & Economics Association**
<http://www.amlecon.org/>
- **Northwestern Mutual Life**
<http://www.northwesternmutual.com>
- **National Opinion Research Center**
<http://www.norc.org/homepage.htm>
- **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**
<http://www.fdic.gov/about/jobs/index.html>
- **Federal Reserve Bank/Board**
<http://www.federalreserve.gov/careers/default.htm>
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**
<http://www.uschamber.com/careers/default>
- **U.S. Government Accountability Office**
<http://www.gao.gov/jobopp.htm>
- **The Economist**
<http://www.economist.com>
- **International Monetary Fund**
<http://www.imf.org>
- **Association for Social Economics**
<http://www.socialeconomics.org/>
- **Global Knowledge Economics Council**
<http://www.gkec.org/>
- **International Association of Agricultural Economists**
<http://www.iaae-agecon.org/>
- **International Economic Development Council**
<http://www.iedconline.org/>
- **Institute for International Economics**
<http://www.iie.com>

Sample Careers for Economics Majors

Economics majors have a wide selection of educational and career choices. These are the program opportunities available to Economics majors:

Business Economics

This program stresses skills and techniques applicable to the business environment. The business economist requires a solid foundation in applied economic theory, quantitative methods, and communications. The business economics graduate is well prepared for analyst positions with banks, corporations, public utilities, consulting firms, and government agencies.

Economics through Arts and Sciences with a Business Minor

Some students might desire the broad educational experience of a liberal arts degree while preparing for a career in the private sector. An economics degree in A&S with a minor in business permits the selection of a broad range of classes to meet diverse educational goals while providing the specialized training helpful for success in the private sector.

International Careers

The advent of the Global Economy makes knowledge of international economics and international economies incredibly important in both government and business. Students will find an excellent avenue to international careers.

Banking and Financial Institutions

Banks, stock brokerage firms, and other financial institutions find the analytical skills of economics majors crucial to their operations. Employment and advancement in the financial sector requires extensive training in economics, accounting, and finance.

Government and Public Administration

An economics degree is a good choice if you are considering a career in government or public administration. Economics stresses the analysis and evaluation of government activities and the impact of government on the economy. The increased importance of economics for environmental concerns and policy is a natural choice for those with environmental interests.

Pre-Law

A degree in economics serves as excellent preparation for law school. Historically, economics majors have scored very well on the Law School Admission Test. Economics students develop the reasoning ability and analytical skills necessary for the study and practice of law.

Graduate work in Economics

Graduate work in economics is for those interested in a career as a professional economist. Economic research positions in academics and government generally require a Masters degree and often specify a Doctorate.

Economist

Economists study how society distributes scarce resources such as land, labor, raw materials, and machinery to produce goods and services. They conduct research, collect and analyze data, monitor economic trends, and develop forecasts. They research issues such as energy costs, inflation, interest rates, imports, or employment levels.

Employer Options

- Federal Government Agencies
- Colleges and Universities
- Accounting and Consulting Firms
- Public Sector Organizations

Actuary

Actuaries assemble and analyze statistics, calculate risk probabilities and determine premium rates for policies and pension plans within three basic areas of insurance: life, health and property and casualty. Regardless of specialty, actuaries assemble and analyze data to estimate probabilities of an event taking place, such as death, sickness, injury, disability, or property loss.

Employer Options

- Actuarial Consulting Firms
- Government Agencies
- Health Insurance Companies
- Pension Funds

Financial Analyst

Financial analysts provide investment analysis and guidance to businesses and individuals to help them with their investment decisions. They gather financial information, analyze it, and make recommendations. Financial analysts assess the economic performance of companies and industries with money to invest.

Employer Options

- Financial Consulting Companies
- Securities and Commodities Brokers
- Mortgage Bankers
- Investment Services Firms
- Insurance Carriers
- Computer and Data Processing Firms
- Economic Research Firms
- Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies
- Management Consulting Firms

For further research on career & employment options, utilize your preferred internet search engine. The following websites are a great place to begin your research:

- www.monstertrak.com
- www.quintcareers.com
- www.careerbuilder.com
- www.experience.com

- www.mymajor.com
- www.monster.com
- www.bls.gov/oco
- www.jobcentral.com