

Department of Economics

The Department of Economics offers two majors: the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics or the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics. We offer the following tips to help you choose the right major.

BS in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics	BA in Economics
<p>The BS in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics focuses on economic theory and extensive application of mathematical and quantitative analyses to train students how to apply sophisticated methods of data analytics and critical thinking skills. The BS prepares graduates for more advanced study of economics and econometric analysis.</p>	<p>The BA in Economics focuses on economic theory and critical thinking skills to train students to analyze and investigate real world economic problems. Graduates can apply these skills in the private sector to improve business outcomes through better decision making and in the public sector to develop more effective government policies.</p>
<p>This major is the right choice for you if:</p> <p>You are quantitatively inclined. You enjoy math, and you would like to use mathematics and statistics to analyze economic issues.</p> <p>You enjoy theoretical exercises – not everything requires a list of “real world” examples.</p> <p>You are seriously interested in going to graduate school to study economics. For you, taking additional calculus and statistics courses beyond those required is a must.</p> <p>You like to analyze economic policies, and you are deeply motivated to understand the theoretical foundations of various policy options and to be able to predict expected policy outcomes.</p> <p>Your preferred job would be quantitative in nature, working with data, perhaps serving as an analyst for a large manufacturer, retail, or financial firm.</p>	<p>This major is the right choice for you if:</p> <p>You are comfortable with math, but math is not really a passion for you. You don’t expect to rely heavily on quantitative analysis during your career.</p> <p>You are most interested in applying economic theory to current issues. Theory, just for theory’s sake, does not intrigue you much.</p> <p>You are thinking about law school or perhaps a graduate degree in a related field like public policy or urban planning. A BA degree is likely to be your last degree that specializes in economics.</p> <p>You like to apply economic analysis to various social issues. Since the BA has many more free electives than the BS, you are excited to have a chance to study labor markets, developing economies, the environment, the structure of industry, etc.</p> <p>Your preferred job would be working for a government agency on policy issues.</p>
<p>Poor reasons to choose this major:</p> <p>You want to avoid the foreign language requirement of the BA major.</p> <p>You think holding a STEM degree would be better on the job market.</p> <p>You did eventually pass your math and theory classes, but it was a struggle.</p>	<p>Poor reasons to choose this major:</p> <p>You were not able to get into a major in the College of Business and you think that continuing in economics is a good idea because you have already taken the Principles courses.</p> <p>You hope that businesses will hire you even though you did not major in business.</p> <p>You do not like math classes, especially calculus. The BA in Economics seems to require only relatively easy algebra and graphing skills.</p>