



Economics

Bachelor of Business Administration

- > Major in Economics
- > NEW: Minor in Financial Institutions & Markets
- > NEW: Minor in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development

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Myths and Truths About Economics

Myth: Economics is a narrow field of study focusing on unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and other topics related to money and the economy, with little application to the broader world.

Fact: A degree in Economics provides a broad-based, high-quality education, preparing you to achieve a variety of goals, such as finding a great job soon after graduation or getting into the postgraduate program of your choice. The major teaches critical thinking, creative problem solving, application of information technologies, effective oral and written communication, research methods, and logical decision making.

Economics studies a wide variety of topics and decisions that matter in everyday life. Economic methodology has been applied to studies of crime, addiction, marriage, sports, global warming, natural resource depletion, and voting behavior, among many other topics.

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MYTH: Economics is all about mathematics and statistics.

FACT: Economics Majors and Minors can choose among the courses to find ones with the desired amount of emphasis on mathematics. It is possible to create a course of study, leading to a degree, that includes primarily economics courses that are intuitive, based on the real world, and not math intensive. It is also possible to get your degree in economics by taking mostly economics courses that are based heavily on mathematics and statistics.

MYTH: Employers aren't much concerned with a student's major, and a bachelor's degree in any one of a number of fields would open the same employment doors as would a degree in Economics.

FACT: A degree in Economics is highly marketable. Unlike some business graduates, Economics graduates enjoy the flexibility of being able to work in both the public and the private sectors. Average inflation-adjusted annual earnings for male Economics graduates five years after graduation, according to one study, were \$50,600. This compares favorably with earnings for male graduates in Math & Other Physical Sciences (\$50,900), Other Social Sciences (\$42,100), and Fine Arts & Humanities (\$37,100). (Data are from Statistics Canada, published in 2002.)

More recent data (2007) are available for the United States, where the National Association of Colleges and Employers identified the starting salary offers in different disciplines. The starting salary in Economics was \$48,483. The same survey¹ found that majors in Political Science, English, Psychology, Sociology, and History were offered an average of less than \$35,000. Another study², reported by *The New York Times* and based on self-reports from 1.2 million people, found that among those with more than 15 years of experience in their field, economics majors had the fifth highest median salary, among 75

university majors identified. You can find many more useful and interesting statistics related to the topic of how much each degree is worth by visiting the URLs provided in footnotes 1 and 2.

What Do Economists Do?

Economics teaches skills in research, analysis, forecasting, and planning that can serve you in almost any field. The names of upper-level courses give some idea of the career opportunities that become open to you with training in economics: Canadian Financial Markets, Public Finance, International Economics, Labour Economics, Government and Business, Economics of the Environment, Forestry Economics, Economic Analysis of Health Services, and Development Economics.

Economists work in the following fields and in the following positions, as well as in many more:

BANKING

- > Credit Analyst
- > Investment Analyst
- > Financial Manager
- > Speech Writer
- > Forecaster

JOURNALISM

- > Researcher
- > Industry Analyst
- > Economic Analyst

GOVERNMENT

- > Researcher
- > Public Policy Analyst
- > Speech Writer
- > Forecaster

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- > International Analyst
- > Newsletter Editor
- > Investment Banker
- > Broker

GENERAL BUSINESS

- > Business Analyst
- > Marketing Analyst
- > Business Forecaster

OTHER

- > Business Consultant
- > Freelance Analyst
- > Think Tank Analyst
- > Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Consultant

A bachelor's degree in Economics is an excellent preparation for graduate studies — whether in economics itself or in another field, such as law, business, public administration, environmental studies, health-care administration, labour relations, urban planning, diplomacy, or one of many others. A degree in economics is excellent preparation for an MBA program. Many MBA courses have significant economics content, and many MBA instructors are themselves trained as economists. Furthermore, economics majors do very

well on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT). One 2006 study³ found that the average GMAT score for economics majors was higher than the averages for most other majors.

Studies⁴ have also shown that economics majors consistently rank ahead of physics/math and philosophy majors in the top three groups of students taking the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Legal cases and legislation often implement economic concepts and the economic way of thinking in their analysis of problems, and having an economics major will give you an edge in law school and on the LSAT.

Your decision to obtain an economics degree will yield benefits even after you finish your education, whether it is in business school, law school, or some other field. A recent study⁵ found that 'Among individuals who pursue a master's degree in business or a professional degree in law, those who have an undergraduate economics major generally earn more than individuals with other majors.'

Ask Your Program Advisor About the Following Programs:

BACHELOR OF ARTS

- Major in Economics
- Minor in Economics
- Major in Economic and Political Studies
- Minor in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Major in Economics
- Minor in Economics
- Minor in Financial Institutions and Markets
- Major in Economics and Mathematics (*pending final approval*)
- Minor in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development

CERTIFICATE IN FIRST NATIONS APPLIED ECONOMICS

¹<http://tinyurl.com/2007study> • ²<http://tinyurl.com/2009study> • ³Monson, T. D. and Nelson P. A., "Economics Majors Score Well on the GMAT Tool," Working Paper, Michigan Technological University, 2006. • ⁴Nieswiadomy, M., "LSAT Scores of Economics Majors: The 2003–2004 Class Update," *Journal of Economic Education* (Spring 2006): 244–247. • ⁵Black, D.A. et al., "The Economic Reward for Studying Economics," *Economic Enquiry*, vol. 41(3): 365–377.