Undergraduate Degrees in Economics
“Lionel Robbins described economics as ‘a science which studies human behaviour as a relationship between ends and scarce means which have alternative uses.’ From the growth of economies to public finance, and from labor economics to international finance and decision theory, economics covers a broad terrain. Economists use an analytic approach derived from the implications of scarcity to study these subjects; as a consequence, the economics student develops tools that are useful in a variety of areas. Our economics curriculum is designed to teach you how to use these tools as effectively as possible—and to employ this engine of analysis in your chosen field.”

—Dr. Barry Ickes
Associate Head
Department of Economics
The curricula of Penn State’s economics programs join interdisciplinary study with a fundamental component of mathematics and statistics. Together, this knowledge can give you an extensive comprehension of how society and organizations work, especially in interaction with their external environment.

**Our program portfolio includes:**
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Economics

**Which career path in economics is best for you?**
The Bachelor of Arts in Economics is best suited for you if you want to focus on the qualitative aspect of economics. The program places a stronger emphasis on social behavior, culture, international relations, and foreign languages to prepare you for work in national or international organizations.

The Bachelor of Science in Economics can help you develop solid analytical skills, especially in mathematic theory, research, and computer programming. It can provide you with the strong quantitative knowledge you need to understand and interpret individual and group behavior through numerical concepts and models. The main benefit of the bachelor of science is its strong analytical curriculum that can help you develop the skills most sought after by employers.
Both the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science programs share a core curriculum that is designed to teach you the fundamental concepts of economics.

These core courses are:

ECON 102—Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
Methods of economic analysis and their use; price determination; theory of the firm; distribution.

ECON 104—Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
National income measurement; aggregate economic models; money and income; policy problems.

ECON 106—Statistical Foundations for Econometrics
Basic statistical concepts used in economics. Topics include probability distributions, expectations, estimation, hypothesis testing, correlation, and simple regression.

ECON 302—Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis
Allocation of resources and distribution of income within various market structures, with emphasis on analytical tools.

ECON 304—Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
Analysis of forces that determine the level of aggregate economic activity.

ECON 306—Introduction to Econometrics
The implementation of statistical techniques to analyze data and address economic questions. Econometric results are produced and assessed.

To deepen your knowledge in the field, you may also choose from courses in the following topics:
• labor economics
• public finance
• international economics
• growth and development

In addition to the core courses, you must successfully complete General Education courses, electives, and other supporting courses to fulfill the 120-credit requirements for either the bachelor of arts or the bachelor of science.
A degree in economics can give you the skills to think critically, abstract and simplify complex data, analyze and understand trends, and allocate resources efficiently. These skills are directly applicable to jobs in many industries, such as banking, manufacturing, insurance, research, and government. Many employers seek candidates with these qualifications, and value the skills of economics graduates.

Below are some career paths you might consider with your economics degree:

**Bachelor of Arts in Economics**

As a graduate of this program, you can be prepared to work in the private or public sector, nationally or internationally. You may be best suited to work in positions that place emphasis on social behavior, culture, international relations, and foreign languages, such as:

- economic consultant for businesses and nonprofits
- information analyst
- management analyst or consultant
- public and environmental policy analyst
- budget analyst for charities and nonprofits
- political and social researcher

**Continuing Your Education**

This program is an excellent stepping-stone if you wish to study economics at the graduate level, or go to law school.

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**Bachelor of Science in Economics**

While you may employ the skills learned in this degree in a variety of industries and positions, below are some typical job placements for a graduate of this program:

- financial examiner, analyst, or adviser
- accountant or auditor
- investment banker
- market research analyst
- operations research analyst
- statistician
- financial, securities, or commodities sales agent

**Advance Your Career**

This program can also prepare you to acquire a graduate-level degree in economics, urban and regional planning—or continue your education through an MBA.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, many of the occupations listed above are expected to grow faster than the job growth average.
Why Study Economics at Penn State?

Online Delivery Experience
Since 1892, students like you have been able to complete a Penn State education without traveling to a physical campus. Over the years, distance education options have evolved to include technology-enhanced learning experiences. As a pioneer in online learning, Penn State has significant experience in teaching and understanding the needs of students learning at a distance.

You can experience courses that are:

- designed around best practices in online delivery
- taught by faculty with experience teaching in an online environment
- created using technology to support learning outcomes, not just convenience

A Fully Supported Education
When you think of online education, you may feel like you are on your own, but that cannot be further from the truth. Our team of career academic advisers and help-desk support is vested in your success. Through World Campus, you will have access to student support services just like our students on campus. Our student services include:

- new student orientation
- academic advising and career counseling resources
- tutoring in writing, math, and statistics
- a nationally recognized research library
- technology help desk

Financial Aid Opportunities
World Campus makes many options available to help you pay for your education. Full- and part-time degree-seeking students are eligible for federal student aid, provided the necessary requirements are met. In addition, Penn State offers the following payment alternatives:

- Deferred payment plan
- Third-party payments
- Military payment options
Begin Your Application Today

To start the application process, visit www.worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions, and click on “Apply Now.” Admissions requirements are the same for both the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science.

You must submit an application portfolio by the following deadlines:

**June 30** for fall semester admission

**October 31** for spring semester admission

**March 15** for summer semester admission

Your application portfolio must include:

- online application form and fee
- official high school transcripts or GED transcript
- official college or university transcripts, if you attended another institution
- official military transcripts (if applicable)
- TOEFL score (if applicable)

Did you know?

- According to *The Wall Street Journal*, students who major in economics will receive a higher salary than other college majors all throughout their career.

- Studies by the American Economic Association show that economics majors have among the highest scores in the LSAT.

- For students applying to an MBA program, economics ranks as one of the most valued undergraduate majors, after engineering.
Contact Us
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www.worldcampus.psu.edu
800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)
814-865-5403 (local and international)
814-865-3290 Fax

Student Services Hours
(inquiries and registration)
8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Admissions Counseling Hours
8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday
Closed Saturday and Sunday

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