Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Economics — with emphases in Traditional Economics; Individually-Designed Interdisciplinary

Minor in Economics

Department Chair
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The Program

HSU has a strong and rigorous economics program. We are a close-knit community with small classes, a hands-on approach, and strong student-faculty relationships. Professors know you by name and work to support and encourage you as you grow and learn.

We offer many opportunities for hands-on learning and internships that are grounded in real-world skill building and help prepare you for the job market. There are openings for paid internships as research, community development, and teaching assistants, including the Humboldt Economic Index internship (a local index of economic activity), the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) summer internship, the Ruprecht Research Assistantship, and several instructional teaching assistantships. Students also work with local economic development non-profit organizations in our service-learning course.

In the liberal arts tradition, HSU economics graduates develop strong analysis, problem-solving, and written and oral communication skills. This skill-set makes our students very marketable when they graduate and economically evaluate real-world events.

Given the complexity of these problems, we understand the relevance and importance of an interdisciplinary curriculum. Our economics majors choose from either a traditional economics emphasis or an interdisciplinary emphasis. The interdisciplinary emphasis requires a minor (or equivalent) in a related discipline such as applied mathematics, political science, environmental science, business, international studies, or history. Students switching majors to economics often choose our interdisciplinary emphasis and make use of coursework earned from a prior major in order to graduate more quickly. Overall, economics majors are in the top 10 percent in terms of shortest time to graduation at Humboldt State University.

Preparation

High school students should take college preparatory courses, including English, writing, social science, and economics (if available). Math (including calculus) is recommended.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 67-82.

Unit Requirements

Core units: 24-26
Emphasis units: 16
Elective units: 12-18
Total units in the major: 52-60
Total units required for the degree: 120

- the ability to explain the role that economics plays in defining and achieving a sustainable society
- mastery of computational analysis, including solving problems using economics tools and methods
- effective written and oral communication through summary and analysis papers, descriptive research papers, and presentations
- the ability to present themselves professionally in the job market

Consider today’s important issues – climate change, sustainable growth and development, international trade and globalization, inequality and world poverty. In each case, economics is essential to understanding the choices that society faces and it is crucial in creating the best possible policy. Economics students learn to make sense of large and complex economic issues and critically evaluate real-world events.

Special Grade Requirement

A minimum grade of C must be earned in all courses required for the major.

Core Courses (24-26 units)

The following core courses and 16 units of upper division economics electives are required for all economics majors.

Lower Division

ECON 210 (4) Principles of Economics
Complete one of the following:
MATH 101i (3) College Algebra
MATH 101i (3) College Algebra with Integrated Support (and corequisite MATH 1)
MATH 102 (4) Algebra & Elementary Functions
MATH 109* (4) Calculus I

Complete one of the following:
STAT 108 (3) Elementary Statistics
STAT 108i (3) Elementary Statistics with Integrated Support (and corequisite: STAT 8)
PSYC 241 (4) Intro to Psychological Statistics

*Students with a higher math aptitude and those considering graduate school should take MATH 109.

Upper Division

Complete one of the following courses:
BA 332 (4) Intermediate Business Statistics
PSYC 488 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics
STAT 333 (4) Linear Regression Models/ANOVA

Complete all of the following courses:
ECON 310 (4) Intermediate Microtheory & Strategy
ECON 311 (4) Intermediate Macroeconomics
ECON 490 (2) Capstone Experience

Upper Division Economics Electives (16 units)

Complete four upper division economics elective courses numbered ECON 300-499, with the exception of ECON 387 & 482, including the corresponding 1-unit depth of study where offered.

Emphases (12-18 units)

Complete one of the following emphases to fulfill the requirements of the major:

1. Individually-Designed Interdisciplinary
   - Emphases (12-18 units)
   - complete one of the following courses:
     ECON 387 (4) Research Methods

2. Traditional Economics
   - Emphasis units: 12-18 units
   - complete one of the following courses:
     ECON 387 (4) Research Methods

3. Applied Economics
   - Emphasis units: 12-18 units
   - complete one of the following courses:
     ECON 387 (4) Research Methods

4. Policy Analysis
   - Emphasis units: 12-18 units
   - complete one of the following courses:
     ECON 387 (4) Research Methods
Traditional Economics Emphasis (12 units)

Complete an additional 12 units of upper division economic elective courses numbered ECON 300-499, with the exception of ECON 387 & 482, including the corresponding 1-unit depth of study where offered.

Individually-Designed Interdisciplinary Emphasis (18 units)

Complete a minor or 18 units of equivalent coursework, 9 of which must be upper division.

With approval from one’s academic advisor and the department chair, students may develop an individually-designed, interdisciplinary emphasis by embedding a minor from a related field into their economics major. Alternatively, students may self-design a program of complementary coursework with at least 18 units (9 UD). Students must write a brief memo that outlines the purpose of their individually designed interdisciplinary emphasis, including personal learning and career goals.

Suggested minors and areas of study include:

- **Applied Mathematics.** For students who want access to more technically demanding careers requiring extensive knowledge of mathematics. This emphasis will appeal to someone planning to enter a doctorate program in economics.

- **Business.** For students with career goals that demand specialized business training. This emphasis will appeal to someone planning to enter an MBA program.

- **Energy.** For students interested in combining engineering and environmental science with economics. Career paths include engineering consulting firms, state or federal policy agencies, and private energy industry firms.

- **Environmental & Natural Resource Planning.** For students interested in careers as industry representatives, advocates, consultants, and government planners working on environmental and natural resource issues.

- **International Studies.** For students interested in careers in international business, policy, or advocacy.

- **Political Science.** For students interested in careers in law, government and public affairs, advocacy and interest groups, and other nonprofits.

- **History.** For students interested in careers in secondary education, law, diplomacy, and journalism.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR**

**Special Grade Requirement**

A minimum grade of C- must be earned in all courses required for the minor.

**Total units required for the minor:** 16

**Lower Division**

ECON 210  (4) Principles of Economics

**Upper Division Economics Electives**

Complete 12 units from the following list. *Courses with a corresponding additional depth “D” sections (below). Students are strongly encouraged to take the additional depth section when offered.*

ECON 305* (3) International Economics & Globalization

ECON 306* (3) Economics of the Developing World

ECON 308* (3) History of Economic Thought

ECON 309* (3) Economics of a Sustainable Society

ECON 310 (4) Intermediate Microtheory & Strategy

ECON 311 (4) Intermediate Macroeconomics

ECON 323* (3) Economic History of the US

ECON 423* (3) Environmental & Natural Resources Economics

ECON 435 (4) Principles of Money & Banking

ECON 450 (4) Energy Economics & Climate Policy

ECON 470S (4) Sustainable Rural Economic Development

**Additional Depth Courses**

*The following courses can only be taken with the corresponding courses above.*

ECON 305D (1) International Economics & Globalization Depth

ECON 306D (1) Economics of the Developing World Depth

ECON 308D (1) History of Economic Thought Depth

ECON 309D (1) Economics of a Sustainable Society Depth

ECON 323D (1) Economic History of the US Economics Depth

ECON 423D (1) Environmental & NR Economics Depth

**Note:** Students seeking a baccalaureate in business administration with a concentration in economics may not also receive a minor in economics.