



Economics

Economics is the social science that explores the problem of relative scarcity and its implications for problems of resource allocation, economic stability, growth and distribution. Applied fields, including labor relations, financial economics, international economics, and environmental economics, focus on specific aspects of these broad concerns. In the applied areas, students become cognizant of the interaction between economics and related disciplines.

The objectives of the Economics program are to (a) provide the theoretic and quantitative tools necessary to understand the development, structure, and operation of the contemporary economy; (b) develop skill in using those tools to analyze economic problems and to critically assess proposed solutions; and (c) provide information and guidance as students explore career opportunities in economics and develop their own post-graduate plans.

Note: Career options include staff and training positions in the financial sector, other service industries, and manufacturing. Graduate study opportunities include economics, law, business, and related fields.

Programs

- Economics, B.S. *major*
- Social Studies, B.A. (Economics Emphasis) *major*
- Economics *minor*

Career Directions

See note in program description.

Economist
Also: Graduate Study

Economics, B.S. *major*

A total of 120 semester credits are needed for the **Economics B.S.** degree and include the following:

- 40 upper division credits (level 3000/4000)
- 42 required major core credits
- Completion of Core Curriculum credits (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum [MnTC] Goal Areas 1-10) - required for all baccalaureate degrees
- Completion of BSU Focus and Nisidotaading Course Requirements

Dual Degrees

Students wishing to complete two degrees concurrently, (example: Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts) must complete a minimum of an additional 30 credits above the required 120 credits.

Multiple Credentials

Any additional major, minor or certificate in a degree must have at least 6 credits of course work not used to meet the requirements of another major, minor or certificate in the degree.

Required Credits: 42

Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 3810 Economic Research Methods (3 credits)
- ECON 4000 Intermediate Microeconomics (3 credits)
- MATH 1170 College Algebra (3 credits)

Select 1 of the following courses:

- BUSN 2231 Business Statistics I (3 credits)
- STAT 2610 Applied Statistics (4 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Select 24 semester credits of electives, 12 of which must be in Economics or advisor approval. Select from:

- ECON 3010 Public Economics (3 credits)
- ECON 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)
or ENVR 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)
- ECON 3070 Labor Economics (3 credits)
- ECON 3200 Economics of the Financial Sector (3 credits)
- ECON 3230 Benefit/Cost Analysis (3 credits)
- ECON 3400 International Trade and Finance (3 credits)
- ECON 3700 Current Economic Topics (1-3 credits)
- ECON 3925 People of the Environment: Economic Perspective (3 credits)
- ENVR 3600 Environmental Justice and Sustainability (3 credits)
- GEOG 3231 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)
- GEOG 3400 Economic Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 3870 Planning for Sustainable Cities (3 credits)
- GEOG 4265 Spatial Analysis (3 credits)
- MATH 2471 Calculus I (5 credits)
- STAT 3610 Time Series Analysis (3 credits)

Program Learning Outcomes | Economics, B.S.

1. Develop Critical Thinking skills in relation to economics: Students will develop deductive reasoning skills and demonstrate knowledge of neoclassical methodology in which an economic agent is viewed as an optimizer subject to constraints. Students will demonstrate mastery of the theories of demand, cost, production, and labor/leisure decision making.

2. Develop Critical Understanding of Role of Money in Economy: Understand the determinants of the demand and supply for money and be able to evaluate the impact changes in the market for money have on the economy as a whole, and accomplish these objectives above using quantitative skills and graphical models of the macroeconomy.

3. Evaluate competing policies for Stabilization: Apply economic reasoning and critical thinking skills to evaluate alternative policies for the macroeconomic stabilization and microeconomic +economy.

4. Identity causes of Business Cycles and evaluate Policies: Explain various theories for business cycle fluctuations and be able to prescribe and evaluate policy responses.

5. Intell. Dev., Effective Communication and Career Readiness: Apply economic reasoning and critical thinking skills to evaluate alternative policies for the micro-economy at either/both the firm level or for regional economies.

6. Intellectual Development: Understand how supply and demand decisions are made in markets for goods and services, and the implications for equilibrium in this market.

7. The student will identify and interpret macroecon. behaviors: Understand theories for determinants of economic growth, including the impact macroeconomic policies may have on economic growth.

8. The student will identify and interpret microecon. behaviors: The student will be able to articulate assumptions of microeconomic behaviors and apply them to real world solutions.

9. Understanding Supply, Demand Decisions & market Outcomes: Understand how supply and demand decisions are made in markets for factors of production, and the implications for equilibrium in these markets.

Suggested Semester Schedule | Economics, B.S.

The following is a tentative schedule for economics majors. It is meant only as a rough guide. In particular, it is possible for a motivated student to finish the rest of the program requirements in less than three years.

Freshman

- Core Curriculum courses

Sophomore

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)
- BUSN 2231 Business Statistics I (3 credits)
or STAT 2610 Applied Statistics (4 credits)
- Electives

Junior

- ECON 3810 Economic Research Methods (3 credits)
- ECON 4000 Intermediate Microeconomics (3 credits)
- Electives

Senior

- GEOG 4265 Spatial Analysis (3 credits)
- STAT 3610 Time Series Analysis (3 credits)
- Remaining electives

Social Studies, B.A. *major* Economics Emphasis

A total of 120 semester credits are needed for the **Social Studies, Economic emphasis B.S.** degree and include the following:

- 40 upper division credits (level 3000/4000)
- 48 required major core credits
- Completion of Core Curriculum credits (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum [MnTC] Goal Areas 1-10) - required for all baccalaureate degrees
- Completion of BSU Focus and Nisidotaading Course Requirements

Dual Degrees

Students wishing to complete two degrees concurrently, (example: Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts) must complete a minimum of an additional 30 credits above the required 120 credits.

Multiple Credentials

Any additional major, minor or certificate in a degree must have at least 6 credits of course work not used to meet the requirements of another major, minor or certificate in the degree.

Required Credits: 48

Required GPA: 2.50

Note: A minimum of 22 semester credits used to meet course requirements in I and II must be completed at Bemidji State University. No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. Students who desire a second field of emphasis are to consider a completion of a minor or a second major in that field. Such action may complement and increase the marketability of this major.

I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM

CAPSTONE COURSE

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POLS 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

ECONOMICS COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)

GEOGRAPHY COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)

GEOGRAPHY COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- GEOG 3410 Geography of North America (3 credits)
- GEOG 3800 Regional Geography (1-3 credits)
- GEOG 3810 Geography of Europe (3 credits)
- GEOG 3820 Geography of East, South, and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- GEOG 3840 Geography of Africa (3 credits)

WORLD HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HIST 2219 Medieval European Culture (3 credits)
- HIST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HIST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HIST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HIST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HIST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HIST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HIST 3208 Greece and Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HIST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HIST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HIST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

U.S. HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HIST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HIST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HIST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HIST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HIST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Antebellum America, 1787-1865 (3 credits)
- HIST 3137 The American Civil War (3 credits)
- HIST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HIST 3187 American West (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POLS 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POLS 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POLS 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POLS 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)
- POLS 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POLS 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)
- POLS 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
- POLS 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)
- POLS 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

SOCIOLOGY COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOCI 3010 Sociological Theory (3 credits)
- SOCI 3210 Social Movements - How to Change the World (3 credits)

II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

Note: Select the course not taken in the core.

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)

SELECT 15 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM ECONOMICS

Economics *minor*

Multiple Credentials

Any additional major, minor or certificate in a degree must have at least 6 credits of course work not used to meet the requirements of another major, minor or certificate in the degree.

Required Credits: 18

Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Select 12 semester credits of electives in Economics, 3 of which must be at the 4000 level.

Economics Courses

ECON 1500 Historical Development of the Mixed Economy (3 credits)

Examines the origins and developments of the mixed economy, identifying its key institutions and their evolution. Differences in the historical experiences of different regions/nations are explored, as is the availability of alternative economic systems. [Core Curriculum Goal Area 8]

ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)

Develops microeconomic principles to explain and evaluate markets as mechanisms to signal buyers preferences and induce suppliers' response. Considers the origin and historical development of market economies as well as theory. [Core Curriculum Goal Areas 5 and 9]

ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)

Develops macroeconomic concepts to explore the determination of aggregate output, employment, and the price level in modern mixed economies. The interaction between the financial sector and commodity markets and the potential of monetary and fiscal policy to guide the course of the macro economy are also explored. [Core Curriculum Goal Area 5]

ECON 2150 Interdependence of the Hawaiian Economy and the Environment: Field Projects (1-3 credits)

Economic concepts and techniques in environmental valuation, sustainable development, and green accounting based on the report "Environmental Valuation and the Hawaiian Economy." Interconnection of the Hawaiian economy and environment through investigation of major environmental issues such as the role of forests, water quality and quantity, coral reef ecosystems, extractive activities versus eco-tourism, and invasive species. Direct observation of investment efforts toward achieving sustainability.

ECON 3010 Public Economics (3 credits)

Examines the rationale of public provision of selected goods and services and compares alternative tax structures in terms of their effects on the rest of the economy and their capacity for financing government expenditures. The effects of the political process on taxes and spending and selected topics in intergovernmental fiscal relations are also considered. Prerequisites: ECON 2000 and ECON 2100.

ECON 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)

Examines environmental problems as consequence of market's failure to accurately value environmental resources. Alternative private and public policies are examined in terms of their effectiveness in improving the efficiency and equity with which water, air, and other resources are allocated. Strongly recommend taking ECON 2000 prior to this course. (Also offered under ENVR 3040.)

ECON 3070 Labor Economics (3 credits)

Analyzes structure and operation of labor markets as a background to exploring issues and topics related to collective bargaining and public policy. The impact of technological and institutional change on labor markets is considered. Prerequisite: ECON 2000 or consent of instructor.

ECON 3200 Economics of the Financial Sector (3 credits)

Looks at the operation of intermediaries and securities markets to allocate financial capital and price financial assets. The role of the central bank and related agencies in guiding the financial sector and influencing the macroeconomy are considered. Prerequisites: ECON 2000 and ECON 2100 or consent of instructor.

ECON 3230 Benefit/Cost Analysis (3 credits)

Develops the theoretical base of benefit/cost analysis in reviewing public investment projects and examines the application of this tool by specific agencies. Emphasis on the meaning and treatment of risk in policy analysis. Prerequisite: ECON 2000 or consent of instructor.

ECON 3400 International Trade and Finance (3 credits)

The origins and effects of trade and capital flows. The role of international financial markets in influencing trade flows and international investment. Prerequisite: ECON 2000.

ECON 3500 Forestry and Natural Resource Economics (3 credits)

This course is a companion to Environmental Economics, focused less on theory and more on application of the principles of Microeconomics (e.g., the Cost-Benefit Principle) to specific natural resources. We will apply the tools of microeconomics to economic and natural resource management decisions. Students will learn the basics of sustainability and how to apply it in a variety of settings with the goal of maintaining economic viability across time, often with multiple uses in mind, to gain an understanding of optimal management. For example, students will calculate timber harvest rotations, apply knowledge of various certification systems used to assess the sustainability of forest management practices and explore how these systems impact forestry practices and output availability, as well as how to sustainably maximize fish harvests. Prerequisite(s): None. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5]

ECON 3700 Current Economic Topics (1-3 credits)

Customized course providing in-depth investigation of a current issue of theory or policy. Content and credits may vary. Prerequisites: ECON 2000 and ECON 2100.

ECON 3810 Economic Research Methods (3 credits)

The aim of this course is to expose students to both introductory and advanced analytical methods for macroeconomic theory and policy. The class will provide a primer on introductory inferential statistics (sampling, probability, central tendencies, spread, t- tests and ANOVA) and work towards more advanced analytical applications which are geared towards research questions in macroeconomics. These techniques include multiple regression, logistic regression, multi-dimensional scaling, regression trees, cluster analysis, survival analysis and basic time series analysis. This class will focus on learning both the theoretical background and application of these methods and discuss the ethical and contextual issues that surround the use of statistical analysis in macroeconomic research. Prerequisite(s) ECON 2000 and ECON 2100.

ECON 3925 People of the Environment: Economic Perspective (3 credits)

This course is a module linked to the interdisciplinary environmental issues course, People and the Environment. It is an integrative study of the natural, social, value-based, and citizen-action contexts for environmental awareness. The disciplinary component surveys economic approaches to and institutional settings for environmental decision making, including our behaviors as consumers and producers. Interdisciplinary perspectives are evaluated in light of different concepts of social well being, including economic efficiency, equity, and sustainability. [Core Curriculum Goal Area 8 & 10]

ECON 4000 Intermediate Microeconomics (3 credits)

The class builds upon the material from Economics 2000. We will study the microeconomic foundations of our modern economy. Specifically, we will analyze the behaviors and influences of consumers and firms. We will primary be investigating microeconomic behaviors from the lens of both Neoclassical Economics and Post Keynesian Economics. Prerequisites: ECON 2000 or consent of instructor.

ECON 4917 DIS Tchg Assoc | (1-2 credits)

Directed Independent Study | Teaching Associate

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
 1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
 1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
 1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE
 1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR
 1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION
 1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP
 1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH
 1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS