School of Social Sciences

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Department of Economics

The **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS** is home to the largest number of undergraduate majors on campus. More than 1200 students major in the fields of Economics, Business Economics, and Quantitative Economics. The Department also supports an active honor's program and maintains an excellent record placing graduates in top economics and business graduate programs and leading corporate career positions. Its Ph.D. program is among the University's top producers of Ph.D.'s. Graduate students are recruited from around the world. Research and graduate training focuses on empirical microeconomics, institutional economics and political economy, with special groups in Bayesian and discrete choice econometrics, public choice and transportation economics. Doctoral graduates compete for positions in academia, government and industry.

The number and quality of students served by the Department reflects faculty commitment and dedication to excellence in both teaching and research. Within the last five years, the Department successfully recruited twelve faculty members. Two of these were for senior positions, and both are among the most highly cited in their fields. Faculty research is supported by competitive grants and contracts from NSF, NIH, government agencies and private foundations. Research findings are regularly published in all of the top economics journals and presented at major international conferences. Research results on airline regulation, voting procedures, freeway toll lanes, minimum wage policy, economics of movies, and the economics of happiness have recently been featured prominently in newspaper articles (LA Times, NY Times, Wall Street Journal, and OC Register) and policy debates.

Senior faculty members serve on the editorial boards of major journals. Faculty also actively participate in the University's Center for the Study of Democracy, Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Science, Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, and the Institute for Transportation Studies.

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