

# School of Social Sciences



*An economics degree provides excellent preparation for careers and graduate study in law, business administration, public policy and social sciences.*

*The business economics major at UC Irvine has provided me an opportunity to develop vital critical thinking and analytical skills that will be of great importance in my future career. Since the major is theoretically based, the classes provide excellent preparation for business courses at the graduate level.*

*The greatest thing about being in this major is that it opens doors to a wide variety of career options in the business field and beyond.*

*-Akeena Mistry  
Business Economics Major*

## Economics

### What is economics?

Economics is about making decisions. It studies how individuals, businesses, and governments choose to allocate scarce resources to satisfy alternative goals. As a social science, it also analyzes the interactions among these decision-makers through various institutions such as markets or corporations. Economists consider how well the outcomes of these interactions meet people's desires, and they ask how public policy might improve upon those outcomes.

The department of economics at UC Irvine offers a highly structured, rigorous program emphasizing quantitative methods. The program covers traditional topics related to market interactions, such as monopolies and antitrust, labor markets, economic growth, and the business cycle. It also covers non-market interactions such as those involved in politics, crime, families, and cultural traditions.

### What can I do with a degree in economics?

In learning to think in terms of incentives and tradeoffs, economics majors at UC Irvine develop analytical skills, quantitative tools, and clarity of thought that are useful for just about any occupation. The UC Irvine economics degree also provides excellent preparation for graduate study in law, business administration, public policy, and social sciences.

### Opportunities in economics at UC Irvine

The department of economics offers **three majors** along with a **specialization in international issues and economics**:

#### Economics

The *economics* major is the most flexible program of the three majors, allowing the students to pursue individual interests within the study of economics.

#### Business Economics

The *business economics* major allows students to delve into areas of particular relevance to business, including such topics as forecasting, portfolio selection, industrial organization (the study of markets and competition) and corporate finance. However, the program does not replicate the traditional undergraduate business school curriculum. Instead, it offers a more tightly focused curriculum guided by the rigorous logic and integrative perspective of economics. Courses offered develop and then apply principles of game theory, statistics, econometrics, strategic behavior and microeconomics to analyze issues of finance, management and general business.

#### Quantitative Economics

The *quantitative economics* major is a highly quantitative course of study, useful for students who wish to pursue doctoral-level studies in economics, but also for students who wish to enter some of the most prestigious graduate programs in business and public policy.

#### Specialization in international issues and economics

Students in any of the three economics majors may complete the specialization in *international issues and economics*. The program builds on strengths within the School of Social Sciences and the campus in the area of international studies, and maintains the strong tradition of the department of economics for interdisciplinary research. Students who pursue this specialization will be encouraged to participate in the Education Abroad Program, although it is not required.

To learn more about the requirements and the application process, check us out online!

[www.econ.uci.edu](http://www.econ.uci.edu)

# Suggested Curriculum

## Business Economics

### Freshman<sup>1</sup> (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Lower Division Writing (two courses)  
Economics 20A-B  
Mathematics 2A-B, 4  
Social Sciences introductory (one course)  
Economics 25  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VI<sup>2</sup>

### Sophomore (16 units per quarter)

Social Sciences introductory course  
Economics 100A-B-C  
Economics 15A-B-122A  
Social Science 3A  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VII (one course)  
Lower Division Economics electives

### Junior (16 units per quarter)

Economics 122B  
Upper Division Economics (four courses)  
(two in Mgmt and two in Business)  
Upper Division Writing (one course)  
General Education VIII  
General Education IX  
Electives

### Senior (16 units per quarter)

Upper Division Economics (three courses)  
Electives

## Economics

### Freshman<sup>1</sup> (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Lower Division Writing (two courses)  
Economics 20A-B  
Mathematics 2A-B, 4  
Social Sciences introductory (two courses)  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VI<sup>2</sup>

### Sophomore (16 units per quarter)

Economics 100A-B-C  
Economics 15A-B-122A  
Social Science 3A  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VII (one course)  
Lower Division Economics electives

### Junior (16 units per quarter)

Upper Division Economics (four courses)  
Upper Division Economics Writing  
(one course)  
General Education VIII  
General Education IX  
Electives

### Senior (16 units per quarter)

Upper Division Economics courses  
(three courses)  
Electives

## Quantitative Economics

\*Complete pre-reqs in order to avoid graduation delay

### Freshman<sup>1</sup> (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Lower Division Writing (two courses)  
Economics 20A-B  
Mathematics 2A-B, 3A (or 6G), 4  
Social Sciences introductory (one course)  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VI<sup>2</sup>

### Sophomore (16 units per quarter)

Economics 105A-B-C  
Statistics 120A-B-C  
Social Science 3A  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VII (one course)

### Junior (16 units per quarter)

Economics 123A-B  
Upper Division Economics (four courses;  
two in Quantitative Economics)  
Upper Division Economics Writing  
(one course)  
General Education VIII  
General Education IX  
Electives

### Senior (16 units per quarter)

Upper Division Economics (three courses)  
Electives

<sup>1</sup>Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load in first year when comfortable with the change

<sup>2</sup>Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation

# Additional Opportunities

## Honors in economics

The economics honors program teaches students in the three economics majors to research, write and present economics papers. Honors students take a two-quarter sequence in which they learn to think, write and report results like an economist. The courses emphasize the skills of creative thinking, independent analysis, problem solving, writing and communications.

## Research opportunities

While maintaining strength in micro theory, macroeconomics and econometrics (Bayesian and classical), members of the economics faculty at UC Irvine have research interests in many applied fields, including economic history, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, public choice and public finance, transportation economics and urban economics. Working with faculty and using statistics and econometric techniques, students are able to pursue independent research projects.

## Social Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office

The Counseling Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduates including course planning, change of major requests, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, careers and internships. Visit the Counseling Office online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs) or call (949) 824-6803 to set up an appointment.

## Social Sciences Academic Resource Center

A great starting point for information about academic-related endeavors is the Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and prospective careers in a number of Social Sciences related fields. Visit the Academic Resource Center online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc) or call (949) 824-8322 to set up an appointment.

