Economics, B.S.

The B.S. in economics incorporates a balance of economic theory, mathematical tools, and field applications while emphasizing the development of analytical skills.

Students majoring in economics choose one of two tracks: business or policy. They complete three sets of requirements for the major: mathematics and statistics courses that provide the skills needed for understanding economic theory and data; economic theory courses that provide the tools needed for analyzing economic issues; and field courses that apply economic tools to business, social, or specialized analytical issues. The applied field course requirement varies, depending on a student’s choice of track.

The Bachelor of Science degree is awarded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Requirements**

The Bachelor of Science with a major in economics requires a minimum of 120 s.h. of coursework, including 33-35 s.h. of coursework for the major. To graduate, students must have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all college coursework attempted, all coursework attempted at the University of Iowa, all college economics coursework attempted, and all coursework attempted at the University of Iowa.

Coursework in the major may not be taken pass/nonpass. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The major requires a set of courses in mathematics and statistics (15-17 s.h.) and a set of courses in economic theory (6 s.h.). It also requires applied field courses (12 s.h.) in one of two tracks: business or policy.

Students may be able to count a limited amount of transfer credit toward the economics major, but they are required to complete the following courses at the University of Iowa: ECON:3100 Intermediate Macroeconomics, ECON:3150 Intermediate Microeconomics, and three of the applied field courses required for their track.

The B.S. program incorporates a balance of economic theory, mathematical tools, and field applications while emphasizing the development of analytical skills. The program provides an excellent educational background for a variety of positions in business and government as well as for the study of law and for graduate study. The B.S. program is ideal for students planning to pursue a graduate degree in economics.

The business track is designed for students who seek employment in the private sector or who plan to earn the M.B.A. degree after gaining necessary experience. The policy track is designed for students interested in a decision making or advocacy position in the public or private sector or who plan to earn a law degree or a graduate degree in a discipline that is not highly quantitative. Students are required to select one of the two tracks when they declare the economics major.

Students should pay close attention to the order in which they take courses, since some courses are prerequisites for others.

The B.S. with a major in economics requires the following coursework.

**Mathematics and Statistics Courses**

The department recommends that students planning to pursue a graduate degree in economics take STAT:3100 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I and STAT:3101 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics II rather than STAT:3120 Probability and Statistics. It also recommends that they complete additional coursework in mathematics, including MATH:2700 Introduction to Linear Algebra, MATH:2850 Calculus III, and MATH:3770 Fundamental Properties of Spaces and Functions I.

**Economic Theory Courses**

**Applied Field Courses**

Students complete a total of four applied field courses (12 s.h.); three of the applied field courses must be taken at the University of Iowa.

**Business Track**

**Policy Track**

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<td>Economics, B.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics and Statistics Courses</td>
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Separate application to each program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For more information about the M.S. degree, see the M.S. in finance (Tippie College of Business) section of the Catalog.

**Honors**

**Honors in the Major**

Graduation with honors in economics recognizes high scholastic achievement based on grades and on completion of academic work beyond the requirements of the economics major. Students must have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in all college coursework attempted, all coursework attempted at the University of Iowa, all college economics coursework attempted, and all economics coursework attempted at the University of Iowa. They also must successfully complete an honors thesis under the supervision of a faculty member.

Students begin by completing BUS:1999 Introduction to Research in Business at least three semesters prior to graduation. This course introduces students to research in the college and provides an opportunity to develop thesis questions and meet Tippie College of Business faculty members engaged in research. They also must complete ECON:3100 Intermediate Microeconomics, ECON:3150 Intermediate Macroeconomics, and ECON:4800 Econometric Analysis before commencing thesis work.

After identifying a faculty member to advise them on their thesis and completing the coursework listed above, students register for ECON:4999 Honors Thesis in Economics for two semesters while they complete their research and write their thesis. In the second semester of their thesis, students present their research in a poster format at the Undergraduate Research Festival.

Students interested in graduating with honors in economics should visit the department's honors advisor at least three semesters prior to graduation.

**University of Iowa Honors Program**

Completing the economics honors requirements also satisfies the experiential learning requirement for the University of Iowa Honors Program. To learn more about graduating with honors through the UI Honors Program, visit the Honors at Iowa website. Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the economics major.

**Academic Plans**

**Four-Year Graduation Plan**

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

**Before the third semester begins:** at least one-quarter of the semester hours required for graduation

**Before the fourth semester begins:** MATH:1850 Calculus I

**Before the fifth semester begins:** MATH:1860 Calculus II and at least half of the semester hours required for graduation

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**Combined Programs**

**B.S./M.S. in Business Analytics (Career Subprogram)**

Students majoring in economics who are interested in earning a master's degree in business analytics with a career subprogram may apply to the combined B.S./M.S. program offered by the Department of Economics and the Department of Management Sciences. The program enables students to begin the study of business analytics before they complete their bachelor's degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the business analytics program, see the M.S. in business analytics (career) in the Tippie College of Business section of the Catalog.

**B.S./M.S. in Finance**

The Department of Economics and the Department of Finance offer a combined Bachelor of Science in economics/Master of Science in finance program. The combined program permits students to count some credit toward both degrees, allowing them to begin graduate study before they complete their bachelor's degree.
Before the sixth semester begins: STAT:3100 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I (if chosen statistics course)

Before the seventh semester begins:
- ECON:1100 Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON:1200 Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECON:3100 Intermediate Microeconomics
- ECON:3150 Intermediate Macroeconomics
- STAT:3101 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics II (if chosen statistics course), and at least three-quarters of the semester hours required for graduation

Before the eighth semester begins:
- STAT:3120 Probability and Statistics (if chosen statistics course) and at least two major track courses

During the eighth semester:
- ECON:4800 Econometric Analysis, all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plans of Study
Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Economics, B.S.

• Business Track [p. 3]
• Policy Track [p. 4]

Business Track

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
First Year |  |  |
Fall |  |  |
ECON:1100 | Principles of Microeconomics | 4
MATH:1850 | Calculus I | 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level | 4 - 5
CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2
Elective course |  | 2

Hours | 16-17
--- | ---
Spring |  |  |
ECON:1200 | Principles of Macroeconomics | 4
MATH:1860 | Calculus II | 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level | 4 - 5
Proficiency |  |
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
Elective course |  | 1
Elective course |  | 3

Hours | 16-18
--- | ---
Second Year |  |  |
Fall |  |  |
ECON:3100 or ECON:3150 | Intermediate Microeconomics | 3
STAT:3100 | Introduction to Mathematical Statistics | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level | 4 - 5
Proficiency |  |
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4

Elective course |  | 3

Hours | 16-18
--- | ---
Spring |  |  |
ECON:3150 | Intermediate Macroeconomics | 3
or ECON:3100 | or Intermediate Microeconomics
STAT:3101 | Introduction to Mathematical Statistics II | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level | 4 - 5
Proficiency |  |
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab | 4
Elective course |  | 2

Hours | 16-17
--- | ---
Third Year |  |  |
Fall |  |  |
Major: required track course |  | 3
STAT:3120 | Probability and Statistics | 4
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives | 3
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion | 3
Elective course |  | 2

Hours | 15
--- | ---
Spring |  |  |
ECON:4800 | Econometric Analysis | 3
Major: required track course |  | 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab | 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues | 3
Elective course |  | 3

Hours | 15
--- | ---
Fourth Year |  |  |
Fall |  |  |
Major: required track course |  | 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts | 3
Elective course |  | 3
Elective course |  | 3
Elective course |  | 3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours | 15
--- | ---
Spring |  |  |
Major: required track course |  | 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture | 3
Elective course |  | 3
Elective course |  | 3
Elective course |  | 3

Hours | 15
--- | ---
Total Hours | 124-130
--- | ---

a | Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
b | Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
c | Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
d | Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
e | Both ECON:3100 and ECON:3150 must be completed at the University of Iowa.
f | Students may choose to complete either STAT:3100-3101 or STAT:3120.
Typically this course is offered in fall semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

ii GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

iii At least three of the four required track courses must be completed at the University of Iowa.

iv Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor. For more information visit http://commencement.uiowa.edu/. If applicable search for “Early and Late Participation” to find this page (e.g. walk in graduation ceremony in May, degree conferral in August).

### Policy Track

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:1100</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH:1850</td>
<td>Calculus I, II</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH:1860</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature or RHET:1030 or Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
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<td>Elective course</td>
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<td><strong>Second Year</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON:3150 or ECON:3100</td>
<td>Intermediate Macroeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT:3100</td>
<td>Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I, II</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency</td>
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<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency</td>
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Career Advancement

The Bachelor of Science degree provides an excellent educational background for a variety of positions in business and government. Graduates find employment in banking, financial institutions, industrial firms, and trade organizations and in federal, state, and local government agencies dealing with economic policy, regulation, and analysis. An undergraduate degree in economics also prepares students for the study of law and for graduate study in fields such as economics, business management, public administration, hospital and health administration, urban and regional planning, transportation, journalism, political science, and statistics.

Over 90 percent of students reported that they found permanent employment, were accepted to graduate school, or were not seeking employment within six months of graduation.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs. For more information about careers, visit the Pomerantz Career Center website.