

# ECONOMICS

## Bachelor of Arts degree

**with a major in Economics** — with  
Emphases in Traditional Economics;  
Individually-Designed Interdisciplinary

## Minor in Economics

### Department Chair

Steven C. Hackett, Ph.D.

### Department of Economics

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[www.humboldt.edu/economics](http://www.humboldt.edu/economics)

See what our students, faculty and alumni have to say about our program at: [www.humboldt.edu/economics](http://www.humboldt.edu/economics).

## The Program

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- mastery of core microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts, including application and conceptual analysis in evaluating real-world issues/problems
- mastery of computational analysis, including solving problems using economics tools and methods
- effective communication through written summary/analysis and descriptive research papers and oral presentations.
- the ability to present themselves professionally in the job market.

The Economics major at Humboldt State University is distinguished by its hands-on approach and close faculty-student relationships. Our “small urban” environment is a wonderful place for Economics majors to learn and make a difference in the community through our many research and service learning opportunities. Examples include calculating the economic impact of our annual Oyster Festival, helping prepare the City of Arcata’s development strategy, and preparing monthly estimates for the Humboldt Economic Index. Students have published papers with faculty on the local gasoline market and local fisheries market, and have researched sustainable energy and real estate.

The Economics faculty is committed to student learning as their first priority. Our class sizes are kept small so students have the opportunity to interact with our faculty. Advanced computer technology is used throughout the curriculum. In the liberal arts tradition, we emphasize learning, critical

thinking, and development of the whole individual within the context of a rapidly changing world. Our faculty’s teaching and research interests include exciting new areas such as sports economics, environmental & natural resource economics, real estate economics, and sustainable development.

Economics is essential for recommending the best policy option for some of today’s major issues, including environmental protection, globalization, poverty, and sustainable energy supplies. The Economics curriculum includes both microeconomic and macroeconomic issues. Microeconomics is about the rationing of scarce resources. All human societies confront this fundamental problem, so economics is of central importance. Macroeconomics is about understanding why some countries are rich and some are poor, and about maintaining high employment and low inflation. Students learn to make sense of a large and complex economy and they critically evaluate the impact that different economic policies have on their lives.

Many of our graduates attend law school, earn an MBA, or pursue an advanced graduate degree in economics. Economics students typically earn high starting salaries and pursue a diverse range of career emphases including banking, government, advocacy organizations, consulting, brokerage, and sales. We have a strong record of helping students realize their career aspirations, whether that be through job placements or preparation for graduate and professional school. Economics majors at Humboldt State University are in the top ten percent in terms of shortest time to graduation.

We believe that 21st century academic training must move toward a more interdisciplinary, team problem-solving approach. Therefore, students may choose from either a traditional economics emphasis or an interdisciplinary emphasis that requires a minor (or equivalent) in applied mathematics, political science, environmental and natural resources planning, business, energy, international studies, and other related disciplines.

## 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. 61-77.*

Students must earn a minimum grade of C- in all required courses for the major and the minor.

## Common Core

Taken in both emphases (26 units)

### Lower Division Core

- STAT 108 (4) Elementary Statistics, **or**  
PSYC 241 (4) Intro to Psychological Statistics
- MATH 106 (4) Calculus for Business & Economics, **or**  
MATH 109 (4) Calculus I, **or**  
MATH 113 (3) College Algebra, **or**  
MATH 115 (4) Algebra & Elementary Functions
- ECON 210 (4) Principles of Economics

### Upper Division Core

- BA 332 (4) Intermediate Business Statistics, **or**  
STAT 333 (4) Linear Regression Models/ANOVA, **or**  
PSYC 488 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics
- ECON 310 (4) Intermediate Microtheory & Strategy
- ECON 311 (4) Intermediate Macroeconomics
- ECON 490 (2) Capstone Experience

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

## Economics Electives

Taken in both emphases (16 units)

Students must take 4 upper division electives (with the exception of ECON 320), including the corresponding 1-unit depth of study where offered.

## Traditional Economics Emphasis (12 units)

An additional 12 units of upper division economic courses (with the exception of ECON 320) including the corresponding 1-unit depth of study where offered.

## Individually-Designed Interdisciplinary Emphasis

(minimum 18 units, 9 of which must be upper division)

With approval from one's academic advisor and the department chair, students with a good academic record and a clear concept of their personal goals can develop an individually-designed interdisciplinary emphasis. Such emphases will include an area of study in a complementary field, often a minor or equivalent for at least 18 units. Students must write a brief memo that outlines the purpose of the individually designed interdisciplinary emphasis, including intended learning and career outcomes.

*Suggested areas of study include:*

- **Applied Math.** 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, business, government and public affairs, advocacy and interest groups, and other nonprofits.
- **Secondary Teacher Education Preparation.** For students interested in pursuing a secondary education credential and teaching high school social studies and economics.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

ECON 210 (4) Principles of Economics

In consultation with an economics advisor, select an additional 12 units of upper division economics electives (with the exception of ECON 320). Receive approval from the economics advisor before completing two courses in the program.

