

Economics

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The introductory sections will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and for success outside of school. While coursework is critically important, it should not be your only focus. The chart below will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



Questions?

East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

WORKPLACE SUCCESS

What employers want

In our Economics program, you will develop a set of core skills that help you succeed in a wide variety of jobs and in the academic, corporate, banking, and government sectors. Employers will want you to be competent in the following skills:

- 1. Data acquisition skills:** Economists rely on their ability to extract data from numerous sources to make accurate projections and recommendations.
- 2. Competency in various data analysis techniques:** Economists must be able to uncover patterns in the data and see relationships between variables.
- 3. Analyzing and reasoning:** Our students will be able to reason deductively when modeling a problem and inductively when making inferences from data samples.
- 4. Competency in the use of statistical software:** Since economists use more sophisticated tools to crunch numbers, we train students on the most up-to-date systems like SAS and Python.

WHAT CAN I LEARN?

The Economics major includes a variety of courses that explore different areas of economics. These courses provide the following skills:

- **Microeconomics:** Microeconomists help businesses to manage costs, track changing market conditions, and gauge the responsiveness of consumers to pricing decisions.
- **Macroeconomics:** Often employed by government agencies, these economic specialists compare current data to historic trends and relate current events to larger, predictable cycles.
- **Industrial Organization:** By evaluating an organization’s production technology and costs, industrial economists can help leaders find the most efficient organizational structure.
- **Financial Economics:** The banking and investment sectors rely on these specialists to understand the effects of fluctuating interest rates and other monetary or fiscal policies on the financial markets and institutions
- **International Economics:** International economists study the impact of fluctuating exchange rates, global tariffs, and trade treaties.
- **Labor Economics:** These specialists research and report on the supply and demand for labor, wage rates, and how they affect income and job creation.
- **Economics of Public Finance:** Public finance economists can identify situations that call for government intervention to deal with failures by market systems to achieve socially desirable outcomes, financed by intelligently designed taxes.
- **Econometrics:** Econometricians rely upon math and statistics skills and regression analysis to test hypotheses and make reasonable forecasts.



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THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Economics



ABOUT THE CONCENTRATION

Economics is the social science of decision-making. Decisions are related to the management and allocation of society’s scarce resources. An economics degree trains students to use models of decision making and logical reasoning to understand the behavior of businesses and households, including their reactions to government policies, at the micro and macro (aggregate) levels. Economists utilize their skills in the business, social sciences, and public policy fields.

The study of economics provides the

foundation for understanding the forces influencing the growth in living standards, business cycle fluctuations, inflation, unemployment, financial crises, income inequality, personal finance decisions, and issues related to government intervention, welfare policy, taxation, and other issues of public concern.

Economists collect and analyze data related to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services and can prepare analyses of market conditions and make forecasts of economic trends.

DEGREE OPTIONS

BS Applied Concentration

This option features business courses that complement our core economics courses: accounting, finance, business law, statistics for business, intro to computers, and public speaking. It is an excellent foundation for a business career or an MBA program.

BS Economic Data Analytics Concentration

This option develops statistical and programming skills to prepare you for career opportunities in data analytics. It provides a path to our master’s program in quantitative economics and econometrics.

BS Quantitative Concentration

This option includes courses in statistics, calculus, linear algebra, and econometrics.

It opens doors to MA or doctoral programs in economics, finance, and other quantitative fields and to career opportunities in data analytics.

BS Public Policy Concentration

This option allows you to blend courses in other social sciences and health with the economics major to understand public policy issues from several perspectives. It provides a foundation for a career in government, public policy analysis, or graduate studies in public policy.

BA Concentration

This option combines foreign language training and any minor with an economics major. It is an ideal foundation for a career in international business or law school.



ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at www.ecu.edu/admissions. To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

KEY COURSES

While pursuing your degree in Economics, you will have the opportunity to take courses that expand your foundational knowledge of the discipline, as well as courses that allow you to explore your personal interests within your field of study. These include:

ECON 3310: Behavioral Economics
ECON 3323: Sports Economics
ECON 3353: Development Economics
ECON 3420: Money and Banking
ECON 3550: Decisions & Games
ECON 3630: Health Economics
ECON 3855: Environmental Economics
ECON 4020: Industrial Organization
ECON 4214: Public Finance
ECON 4230: Labor Economics
ECON 4373: International Trade
ECON 4443: Econometrics

INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Department offers independent research to students who are prepared to work independently. These highly motivated students typically desire these independent courses to fulfill either an honors requirement or they are seeking to further their education in graduate school. Hence, the independent study allows them to work closer with a professor in an area of their interest. The Economics Department is also beginning to offer study abroad opportunities for its students in the summer.

Economics MAJOR MAP

DEGREE INFORMATION



FIRST YEAR >>>

SECOND YEAR >>>

THIRD YEAR >>>

FOURTH YEAR >>>

POST-GRAD OPTIONS

THE COURSES YOU NEED



Take initial courses to meet requirements of the general education curriculum and the ECON major and concentration cognates in the first-year suggested course sequence for your degree (BA/BS) and concentration as shown on the [Economics Department website](#). If you are pursuing a BA degree, begin work on your foreign language requirement.

Work on completing general education curriculum with electives in social sciences, humanities, fine arts, and natural sciences. Register for the ECON and cognate courses in the second-year suggested course sequence, which provide the essential tools of analysis in the major.

Complete general education curriculum by the end of this year. If you are pursuing a BA degree, make sure you have completed the foreign language requirement. Register for the ECON and cognate courses in the third-year suggested course sequence, which teach you to apply the tools of analysis.

Take the remaining ECON and cognate courses in the fourth-year suggested course sequence. Make sure that you have completed the requisite number of credit hours to graduate.

A Bachelor's degree in Economics from ECU can prepare you to pursue a variety of careers. These include:

GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By the end of your first year, you should have developed plans to complete specific internships, develop the experience necessary for the kind of employment you want, or begin to identify potential graduate schools.

Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them early. Use the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), [USAJobs.gov](#), and/or other resources available through [Career Services](#) to identify common skills in your career field.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your résumé and give you valuable experience. Connect directly with faculty members who share your interests to explore your opportunities, network, and identify future goals.

Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network.

- Entrepreneur
- Research Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- Financial Journalist
- Investment Banker
- Management Consultant
- Insurance Underwriter
- Sales Representative
- Credit Analyst
- Accountant
- Stockbroker
- Market research analyst
- Actuary
- Loan Officer
- Compensation manager

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Emails from the department will let you know about upcoming guest lectures, internship opportunities, and special events. Attend events organized by the Economic Society, or public events organized by the department.

Join student organizations that suit your interests, like the Economics Society or the Economics Honors Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon (subject to GPA requirements). For a full list of student organizations, visit [OrgSync](#).

Connect with the [Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) to explore local opportunities. Also consider contacting community partners using the [Orgsync](#) directory. Think about participating in events organized by the Economics Advancement Council to build your networks with ECU alumni and other students.

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your classes at ECU's Research and Creative Activities Week. Participate in the department-sponsored trip to the Federal Reserve Bank.

VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: ecu.edu/econ

THINK GLOBALLY



Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. Think about ways you could build these skills, which may include foreign language or Global Understanding courses, study abroad, or internationally-focused courses or student organizations.

Integrate internationally-oriented classes like ECON 3353 and ECON 4373 into your electives and consider a minor or second major in an international field or foreign language. Consider a summer or semester-long study abroad program. Apply for study abroad scholarships in the early fall.

Make the most of your return from your study abroad or internship program by becoming more active in your student organizations. [Work with the Office of Global Affairs](#) and the [Career Center](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.

Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-focused courses.

CAREER PREPAREDNESS



Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log in to [Handshake](#) to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your goals and develop your résumé. Attend career fairs and other employer-related activities. Speak to your instructors and advisors about career options often, and attend the department workshop on business etiquette.

Attend the interviewing and application process seminar held during the spring semester. Meet with your Career Counselor during the year to discuss postgraduation plans and continue to attend career fairs and other career events.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Consider taking SAS and Python programming courses to boost your career preparedness, and complete any available certifications. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.



CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP