

# UCLA Department of Economics

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**Thank you for your interest in the UCLA Department of Economics!  
Economics and Business Economics are two of the most popular majors offered at UCLA. Our majors are competitive and the curriculum is rigorous, but it equips students with the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills needed for successful careers and advanced degrees in a variety of fields.**

## **Why Major in Economics or Business Economics?**

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Economics, known informally as “the study of choices,” is a social science which examines how society produces and consumes goods, and it analyzes many real-world issues such as international trade, poverty, taxes, crime, and education. The curriculum at UCLA provides students with thorough training in both theoretical and empirical approaches to real world problems, and it provides a framework in which to analyze human behavior. In doing so, students graduate with the skills needed for successful careers in a wide range of fields including finance, consulting, accounting, and government.

## **What is the difference between Economics and Business Economics?**

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The Business Economics major is similar to the Economics major, except for an additional focus on accounting and additional upper division courses. Admission into the Business Economics major is more competitive, and it requires 10 extra units of upper division coursework to complete. Upper division courses for Business Economics include a business writing class and two lab-based courses which give students experience in case studies, data analysis, and business presentations.

Despite these minor differences, career opportunities for Economics and Business Economics majors are very comparable and students can complete a similar curriculum in either major.

## **Coursework**

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The curriculum for the Economics and Business Economics majors include lower division courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, statistics, and calculus. Upper division courses include advanced microeconomics and macroeconomics, along with major electives such as money and banking, investments, finance, and entrepreneurship.

## **Is a Business Economics or Economics Major the same as a Business Major?**

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The Economics curriculum provides an understanding of the broader environment in which firms operate and the critical thinking and analysis skills that can be very useful in business. UCLA does not offer undergraduate business major courses such as marketing, management, and human resources or courses on the specific aspects of how a business runs.

## **Related Minors**

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Many students pursuing an Economics or Business Economics degree choose additional minors to supplement their academic interests. These often include, but are not limited to, accounting, entrepreneurship, mathematics, statistics, public affairs, global studies, digital humanities, music industry, and many others.

## **What can you do with a major in Economics or Business Economics?**

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Many Economics and Business Economics majors go on to pursue positions in business and government. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in Economics or Business Economics shows employers that you have advanced critical thinking, analytical, and quantitative skills.

These majors prepare you for a career as a financial analyst, consultant, investment banker, accountant, statistician, budget analyst, trade specialist, program analyst, insurance broker, professor, revenue agent, economic analyst, and actuary, among many other opportunities.

A background in economics can also prepare you for law school, graduate programs in finance, international relations, public policy, urban affairs, or an MBA degree.

**Department Website:** <http://economics.ucla.edu/undergraduate/>

**Economics Undergraduate Counseling Office Phone Number:** 310-825-5118