What Do Economists Do?

Economics majors pursue a wide variety of careers after graduation. Students with a bachelor's degree in economics are often employed in the financial, retailing, and industrial sectors of the economy. Economics majors also work in such diverse fields as:

- Actuarial science
- Education
- Journalism
- Investment banking
- Securities analysis
- Corporate finance
- Insurance
- Law
- Politics
- Environmental regulation
- Government

Graduate schools regard a degree in economics as excellent preparation for advanced work toward a degree in law as well as a Ph.D. in a number of social science fields (i.e., economics, international relations, and political science).

Economics is also an excellent undergraduate major for students seeking an MBA. **What you can do with an education in economics is unlimited!**

Our Location

Ranked #5 in *Outside* magazine’s “40 Best College Towns” in 2003 and cited in *National Geographic Adventure Magazine* as “Equal parts latte-lapping, Oakley-shaded 1990’s university town and tenacious, cowpoke nexus, Bozeman, Montana, sits at the center of a picture-book American landscape: a Western town, plugged into a golden valley rimmed by peaks dusted with snow. Head any direction out of town and year-round adventure awaits.”

“To get a decent education while experiencing all that Montana has to offer was incredible.”

More Information

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Montana State University, the state’s land-grant institution, educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities by integrating learning, discovery and engagement.

“Particular occupations may require special skills, but those necessary skills change and evolve over time. The need for people who can think, learn, and solve problems is timeless.”

“Dr. Wendy Stock, with students”

Dr. Mark Anderson visits with DAEE students Ross Wardrop and John McGlenn as they present their research projects at the MSU Research Celebration this spring. Nearly a dozen DAEE undergraduates presented their research projects at the Celebration.

“The class related economics to the real world and prepared me for jobs and interviews.”
According to the latest census data, economists are among the top 10 percent of occupations ranked by earnings. Economists ranked higher than analysts, actuaries, statisticians, and survey researchers in median earnings. The median annual salary of economists in 2016 was $101,050.2

Because of its flexibility, the economics program offers the opportunity to acquire a rigorous university education coupled with the necessary preparation for many careers. Employment of economists and marketing research analysts is expected to grow at about average levels through 2016.1 Those with advanced degrees will see the best employment and income prospects and advancement opportunities. Globalization, competition, and increased reliance on quantitative methods for analyzing the current value of future funds, business trends, sales, and purchasing should spur demand for economists.

Placement of Recent Majors

Our majors have found employment in a wide variety of areas. In addition, several have chosen to use their economics degree as a foundation for advanced study. A sampling of the placement of some of our recent graduates includes:

- Harvard Law School
- University of Michigan Law School
- Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government
- U.S. Bank, CO
- Continental Management, CA
- Columbia Financial Center, OR
- United States Air Force
- GMAC Refinancing, MN
- Wells Fargo Financial, MT

Earnings

“Very interesting course where you are encouraged to learn.”

“Very interesting course where you are encouraged to learn.”

“I’m satisfied with the education I’ve received and have thoroughly enjoyed being in this department!”

“Instructors were phenomenal.”

“The class opened my eyes as to how the world works and really put economics into perspective.”

“Interesting, challenging, good instruction!”

Our Faculty

Faculty members in the Department have expertise in a wide variety of fields. We teach undergraduate courses in public finance, managerial economics, general applied economic theory, economics and the environment, international economics, money and banking, labor economics, industrial organization, economic development and comparative economic systems. We take an active interest in our students, and each student is assigned a faculty member who serves as the student’s advisor. The one-on-one contact with faculty in our department is consistently given high praise among our students.

Our Curriculum

The Bachelor of Science degree in economics stresses the use of economics as a means of understanding current economic activities and problems and their relationship to our social environment. The objective of the program is to provide students with a broad-based, balanced university education with particular emphasis on economics. Because requirements are specified largely in terms of broad subject areas rather than designation of particular courses, students are given the opportunity to develop a program to meet their own particular needs and interests.

