

## 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!*



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.

*"I left class with something I could put to use."*

*"The class related economics to the real world and prepared me for jobs and interviews."*

## 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."*



Dr. Wendy Stock, with students

## More Information

Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics

P.O. Box 172920  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2920

Phone: 406-994-3701  
e-mail: [agecon@montana.edu](mailto:agecon@montana.edu)  
[www.montana.edu/econ](http://www.montana.edu/econ)

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



## Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics

### Economics

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics offers two undergraduate degree programs: a major in agribusiness and a major in economics. This pamphlet describes the economics major.

**Economics** is the study of choices. It is a unique major that plays different roles for different people. Our economics program focuses on the core reasoning that underlies decision-making where resource constraints are present. It also focuses on developing in students a set of skills that employers value highly: the ability to think critically and carefully, the ability to learn new skills, and the ability to solve problems. More than just a subject of study and memorization, economics is a tool for understanding and improving the world.

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.



Linfield Hall

## Job Opportunities

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

*"I really felt confident with what I had learned at school and I am well equipped for my job. Thanks for the last four years at MSU!"*

## 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

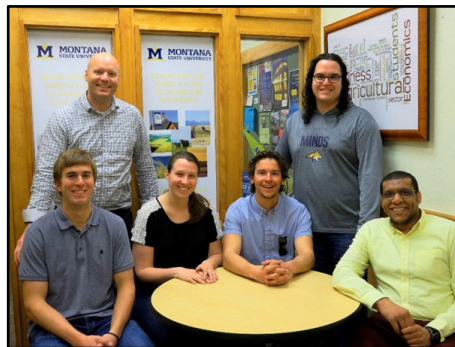
*"The class opened my eyes as to how the world works and really put economics into perspective."*

<sup>1</sup> Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016 edition, [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

## Earnings

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.<sup>2</sup> The median annual salary of economists in 2016 was \$101,050.<sup>3</sup>

*"Very interesting course where you are encouraged to learn."*



Greg Gilpin with students

*"I'm satisfied with the education I've received and have thoroughly enjoyed being in this department!"*



Anton Bekkerman with students

*"Interesting, challenging, good instruction!"*

<sup>2</sup> Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016.

## 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.



DAEE Faculty

*"Instructors were phenomenal."*

## 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.