The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University offers a unique opportunity for students with diverse interests to learn skills in critical analysis, logical problem solving, data and policy analysis, written and oral communication, and business management. Our award-winning faculty has expertise in a wide variety of fields, conduct cutting-edge research, and take an active interest in their students. Our programs have an excellent reputation with local, regional, national, and international firms, as well as graduate schools in law, economics, and public policy.

CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Bachelor of Science in Economics

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE) offers a Bachelor of Science in economics through the College of Letters and Science. This interdisciplinary program offers training and applied knowledge in economic development, environmental policy and natural resource economics, industrial organization, international economics and trade, labor economics, money and banking, statistics, and public policy analysis.

The B.S. 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.

Bachelor of Science in Financial Engineering

This interdisciplinary major (shared with the College of Engineering) emphasizes new financial economic instruments, as well as combining existing instruments to manage risk, create strategic business opportunities, lower costs, and create new management strategies.

As an undergraduate, economics major Jacob Ebersole participated in a research project in Kenya.

Economics professors Carly Urban, left, and Chris Stoddard are studying the effect of student debt on academic performance.

DAEE student Montana Wilson received a prestigious Udall Scholarship in the Tribal Public Policy category for his work in tribal communities.
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics provides an Undergraduate Research Lab. This lab is available for students working on research projects and papers for their classes. The lab houses six computers, two large whiteboards, two large work tables, and a projector for students to use to practice their presentation skills.

CAREERS WITH A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS

Because of its flexibility, the economics program offers the opportunity to acquire a rigorous university education coupled with the necessary preparation for many careers. 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. Economics majors pursue a wide variety of careers after graduation, and are often employed in the financial, retailing, and industrial sectors of the economy.

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. Those with advanced degrees will see the best employment and income prospects and advancement opportunities.

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 econometrics. 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.

Options within Curriculum
- Economics
- Agricultural Business (through the College of Agriculture)
- Financial Engineering

Graduate Programs
- M.S. Applied Economics

What can I do with a degree in Economics?
- Actuary
- Bank Examiner
- Bank Research Analyst
- Benefits Administrator
- Business Manager
- Claims Examiner
- Collection Agent
- Commodities Analyst
- Commodities Trader
- Controller
- Cost Analyst
- Credit Officer
- Demographer
- Economic Researcher
- Economist
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planner
- Financial Researcher
- Health Policy Planner
- Human Resources Administrator
- Insurance Agent/Broker
- International Trade Specialist
- Investment Banking Analyst
- Investment Counselor
- Job Analyst
- Job Developer
- Journalist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Lawyer
- Management Accountant
- Market Research Analyst
- Marketing/Sales Manager
- Mortgage Loan Officer
- Product Manager
- Project Coordinator
- Property Manager
- Public Administrator
- Purchasing Agent
- Real Estate Investor
- Securities Broker
- Statistician
- Systems Analyst
- Teacher or professor
- Technical Writer
- Underwriter
- Urban Planner

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DAEE student Alexander Paterson won a Truman Scholarship and was named a Newman Civic Fellow.