

Economics Degree Options

The Department of Economics at The Ohio State University offers two options for a degree in Economics: a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or a Bachelor of Science (B.S.). Both degree programs are STEM Designated (CIP Code 45.0603: Econometrics and Quantitative Economics) by the Department of Homeland Security.

So, what is the difference between a B.A. and a B.S.?

At any given university, a Bachelor of Arts degree provides a broader education that focuses on the arts and humanities. A Bachelor of Science degree, on the other hand, presents a more specialized education with a stronger focus on technical and scientific areas.

The B.S. degree has a stronger quantitative component that can be used as preparation for graduate work in economics, or for analytical areas of government and business. The B.A. degree is less quantitative and focuses on a broader range of concepts that are more applicable in the humanities field. Both degrees provide an excellent base for graduate work in the social sciences or for professional programs such as law, or a Master of Business Administration.

Economics is a unique field since it includes a focus on both science and the humanities. Therefore, the course requirements for a B.A. and a B.S. are mostly the same, with a handful of variances to distinguish them.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics

- Introductory and intermediate courses in microeconomics and macroeconomics that have an algebra-based approach.
- An elementary econometrics course completes the core curriculum.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Economics

- Introductory and intermediate courses in microeconomics and macroeconomics that have a calculus-based approach.
- Courses in mathematics, statistics, and econometrics complete the core curriculum.

Both B.A. and B.S.

- 15–17 hours of electives, with 6–8 hours at the 5000 level.
- This course level includes specialized courses covering subjects such as money and banking, economic history, international economics, industrial organization, and others.
- A chosen writing course is required for both Economics majors.

Minor in Economics

An economics minor is a good option for political science, journalism, communications, education, finance, management, or any students who need to learn how economics affects their industry. More information on requirements for a minor can be found at <https://economics.osu.edu/undergraduate-programs/degree-options/requirements>.

Internship opportunities, research opportunities, and/or study abroad programs are also available to students with experience. Students also have the option to write a thesis.

For more information, please email the Economics Academic Advisors:

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For an advising appointment, please call (614) 292-6961.