

Sophomore Planning in Economics: A Five-Point Summary

What would you like to understand and improve?



ECONOMICS

Do you like asking questions?

Do you like solving problems?

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*jobs
health
wealth
finance
fairness
inflation
education
environment
gentrification
globalization
new technologies
structural change
government policies
the distribution of opportunity
and more!*

1. Consult the department website early and often

<https://www.swarthmore.edu/economics>

for important information on:

Academic Program

Courses

Faculty & Staff

Visible Hands in Economics

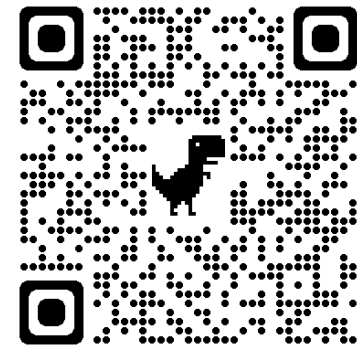
Student Research

Jobs and Opportunities

Student Activities

Lectures

Transferring Credits



2. Know the value of studying Economics

- Studying economics is a doorway to lots of destinations and careers
- Economics provides a set of tools for understanding, predicting, and evaluating individual choices and collective resource allocation. It can help you
 - make better decisions with the resources you control
 - analyze policy issues
 - prepare for further study in economics
 - explore fascinating ideas and complicated realities
- You can help change the field and the world

3. Know your options in Economics

- The department offers a course major, an honors major, and an honors minor
- We do not offer a course minor

Requirements in brief

Check the department website and course catalog for important details.
Information in the catalog supersedes the summary here.

COURSE MAJOR	HONORS MAJOR	HONORS MINOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≥ 8 ECON credits• ECON 001, 011, 021, & 031, + MATH 015*• A comprehensive exam in senior spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≥ 8 ECON credits (effectively ≥ 10 credits)• ECON 001, 011, 021, & 031, + MATH 015*• 3 2-credit honors preparations in ECON, with external exams in senior spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≥ 4 ECON credits• ECON 001, 011, 021, &/or 031, + MATH 015 if prerequisite for the honors preparation• 1 2-credit honors preparation in ECON, with external exam in senior spring

* Check the catalog for info on waivers and equivalents.

3.a. The course major

A typical timeline for the course major:

(Don't worry if your path doesn't match this. I didn't take Intro until my sophomore spring.)

First year: ECON 001 + ECON elective

Sophomore: ECON 011 + ECON 031 + ECON 021 *(Complete these courses before your senior spring!)*

Junior: 2 ECON elective credits *(**Can include honors seminars – try at least one!**)*

Senior: 2 ECON elective credits + “the Comps” *(3-hour exam in late January)*

To be admitted as a course major:

- at least 2 credits in ECON at Swarthmore, with a B or better in at least one *(Shadow grades count)*
- an overall grade average of C or better
- no D's or NC's in economics courses *(You'll have to re-take those to be admitted)*

3.b. The honors major

A typical timeline for the honors major:

First year: ECON 001 + ECON elective

Sophomore: ECON 011 + ECON 031 + ECON 021

Junior & Senior: 3 ECON 2-credit seminars* + external exams (written and oral) in May of senior year

To be admitted as an honors major:

- the same requirements as for the course major, plus a B or better average in all economics courses including shadow grades
- must be paired with an honors minor in another discipline

* Some preparations combine a course and a 1-credit seminar (e.g., ECON 035+135).

3.c. The honors minor

A typical timeline for the honors minor:

First year: ECON 001 + ECON elective

Sophomore: ECON 011 &/or ECON 031 &/or ECON 021 (Check prerequisites for your desired seminar)

Junior & Senior: 1 ECON 2-credit seminar* + external exams (written and oral) in May of senior year

To be admitted as an honors minor:

- the same requirements as for the course major, plus a B or better average in all economics courses including shadow grades
- must be paired with an honors major in another discipline

* Some preparations combine a course and a 1-credit seminar (e.g., ECON 035+135).

4. Know how to prepare a sophomore plan

A good plan has three simple pieces:

- **What personal interests and goals motivate your academic plan?** Two sentences should do it.
- **What is the basic structure of your plan?** Write a paragraph or two identifying the major(s) and minor(s) you will complete, whether you will participate in the honors program, whether you will pursue off-campus study, and the reasons for making these choices.
- **What specific courses and seminars will you take and when?** Provide a semester-by-semester listing of courses and seminars you plan to take in your junior and senior years. Our department posts its two-year forecast of [course offerings](#), as do others.
 - Show you can satisfy all major, minor, and College-wide graduation requirements.
 - Clearly identify your desired seminars in Economics (number, title, semester) so that we can put you on the list. Honors students have priority, but course majors usually get admitted to honors seminars too.
 - If there's a chance you may want to go to econ grad school, take some more math courses. (See our website. The most relevant areas are calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, and real analysis.)

5. Consider all opportunities and resources

Including:

- PhD in Economics – this is do-able if you want it! – for jobs in academia, public policy, & private sector
- Your assigned Sophomore Plan advisor
- Your peers – and [Student Activities](#) in Economics
- Your professors' office hours
- Our administrative coordinator, Megan Salladino (msallad1@swarthmore.edu, Kohlberg 216)
- Summer research in economics (often requires ECON 031 as well as a willingness to learn new skills)
- Other employment and internships and events on the [Jobs and Opportunities](#) page

<https://www.swarthmore.edu/economics>

