INTRODUCTION

As a scholarly discipline, economics is over two centuries old. The nature of economic analysis has been described by John Maynard Keynes as “...a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking which helps its possessors to draw correct conclusions.”

According to the National Association of Business Economists (NABE), “The key skills of the economic analyst compared to other business analysts is the ability to link industry/market developments to the overall economy, i.e., to see the forest as well as the trees. The broad training of economists provides a flexibility that allows them to turn their hand to a broad range of analytical problems – a critical attribute in a company experiencing a redirection of industry interests.”

Students pursuing graduate degrees in many other fields, such as the social sciences, business, public administration, public health, environmental studies, urban studies, law, and journalism find that economics is their best choice for an undergraduate major or minor, given the extensive economic content of these programs. Several studies have shown that lawyers with undergraduate degrees in business economics earn more than other lawyers. 1, 2

LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing a degree in Economics:

Understand critical concepts

• Understand the economic challenge of allocating limited resources among competing uses in a global economy and across different market structures under conditions of limited information

• Understand the behavior of consumers and producers in product and factor markets and the concept of efficient allocation of resources as a maximizing mechanism

• Understand the role of government in the economy in the context of business activity, income distribution, economic growth, globalization and market failure

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Engage in policy oriented analysis
- Understand the theory used to analyze economic variables and how they are affected by public policy and other factors
- Critically evaluate and compare alternative schools of thought and expected policy outcomes
- Understand the interaction between goods, factors and financial markets

Operate professionally
- Understand how to access, use and interpret economic data and apply theory to analyze and discuss economic issues and events
- Understand how to access existing economic literature and analyze economic problems using theoretical, statistical, and quantitative methods

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS (120 UNITS)
Admission to the Economics major involves two steps. Students who apply to the major are initially classified as Pre-economics. After completing the lower-division core requirements with a "C" (2.0) or better, students may apply to the Economics major. Pre-economics students may take lower-division business and economics courses, but most upper-division courses are not open to Pre-economics students.

The Bachelor of Arts in Economics requires 54 units in the major. Students must earn a "C" (2.0) or better in each course listed below. However, a "C" (2.0) average will be acceptable in the upper-division economics electives.

Lower-Division Requirements
ACCT 201A Financial Accounting (3)
ACCT 201B Managerial Accounting (3)
OR MATH 150B Calculus (4)
BUAD 201 Business Writing (3)
ECON 201 Principles of Microeconomics (3)
ECON 202 Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
ISDS 265 Introduction to Information Systems and Applications (3)
MATH 135 Business Calculus (3)
OR MATH 130 Short Course in Calculus (4)
OR MATH 150A Calculus (4)

Upper-Division Requirements
BUAD 301 Advanced Business Communication (3)
ECON 310 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (3)
ECON 320 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis (3)
ECON 340 Economic Research Methods (3)
ECON 490 Economics Capstone (3)
ISDS 361A Quantitative Business Analysis: Probability and Statistics (3)
ECON Electives (15 units)
- 15 units of upper-division economics electives (six units must be 400-level).
- No more than three units of independent study may be used to meet the 400-level electives requirement.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
See "Business Administration, Business Economics Concentration."

MINOR IN ECONOMICS (24 UNITS)
The economics minor covers the basics in the discipline of economics and gives students the opportunity to explore personal interests through electives. A course in calculus (MATH 135 or equivalent) is prerequisite to ECON 310, 315 and 320. Students must earn a "C" (2.0) or better in each required course below.

Lower-Division Requirements (6 units)
ECON 201 Principles of Microeconomics (3)
ECON 202 Principles of Macroeconomics (3)

Upper-Division Requirements (9 units)
BUAD 301 Advanced Business Communications (3)
OR equivalent
ECON 310 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (3)
OR ECON 315 Intermediate Business Microeconomics (3)
ECON 320 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis (3)
AND nine units of upper-division economics electives

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
See "Business Administration, MBA."

MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS (30-33 UNITS)
The master’s degree in economics provides preparation for professional careers in private industry and government, and provides a foundation for further graduate work at the doctoral level.

The curriculum is designed for students with an undergraduate degree in business administration or economics. Students have the option of writing a thesis (the thesis track is 30 units) or taking a comprehensive exam (the comprehensive exam track is 33 units) to earn their degrees.

Most graduate courses in Mihaylo College of Business and Economics require classified “MCBE status” and are open only to students with classified standing in the M.A. in Economics, MBA, M.S. in Accountancy, M.S. in Information Systems or M.S. in Taxation programs.

Admission
Students must meet the CSU requirements for admission to a master’s degree program. Please consult the Graduate Admissions section in this catalog for complete information. In addition, admission to the program will be based on the following:
1. A GPA of at least 3.0 in the following courses or their equivalents (corresponding CSUF courses are in parenthesis)—Business Calculus (MATH 135), Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 201), Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 202), Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON 310 or 315), Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECON 320), Probability and Statistics (ISDS 361A or ECON 340), and one advanced undergraduate elective in economics;

2. For international students, a score of 570 on the TOEFL paper exam or 88 on the iBT is required; and

3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, at least two confidential letters of recommendation, a résumé and a Statement of Purpose from the applicant sent directly to the Graduate Adviser in Economics. Persons who have known the candidate professionally should write the letters of recommendation. There are no forms. The letters should be written on official letterhead, and the letters should discuss both the strengths and the weaknesses of the applicant. The statement of purpose should not exceed 750 words.

An applicant who does not meet one or more of the requirements above (including international students who score between 550 and 570 on TOEFL), may still be considered for admission, depending on the evaluation of the entire application file (the students must, however, have a GPA of 2.5 in the last 60 semester units at the time of admission). If admitted, an applicant with one or more deficiencies may be asked to take specified deficiency courses and exams. Students admitted with deficiencies are called “conditionally classified” students. Conditionally classified students can take a limited number of courses at the graduate level, subject to the approval of the graduate adviser of the department. Students are expected to advance promptly to classified standing. Classified students are eligible to take graduate courses for which they are qualified.

Study Plan

Within one semester of admission, the students are advised to prepare a study plan. A study plan reflects a selection of approved courses that have been taken or will be taken by the student to earn the graduate degree.

Students are urged to meet as soon as possible with the graduate adviser in the Department of Economics to file a study plan and advance to classified standing.

Any study plan course in which a “C-” (1.7) or below is received must be repeated with at least a “C” (2.0), regardless of the overall grade-point average of the students. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required for graduation. Students are also required to graduate in a timely manner.

Required Courses (18 units)

ECON 441  Introduction to Mathematical Economics (3)
ECON 502  Advanced Microeconomic Analysis (3)
ECON 503  Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis (3)

ECON 504  Econometric Analysis (3)
ECON 505  Economic Models and Forecasting
ECON 595  Current Research in Economics (3)

Or approved 500-level substitute

Note: ECON 440, Introduction to Econometrics, is a prerequisite to ECON 504.

Area and Electives Courses (9–15 units)

Students may choose to focus on one of the following elective tracks:

- Financial and monetary economics
- Health, aging and labor economics
- Public economics, law and industrial organization
- International, environmental and development economics

In addition to ECON 441, only two more 400-level courses are allowed on the Study Plan.

Terminal Evaluation (0–3 units)

ECON 598  Thesis Research (3)

Or Comprehensive Examinations

These examinations are given at the end of each semester.

ECONOMICS COURSES

Courses are designated as ECON in the class schedule.

100 The Economic Environment (3)

Application of economics to the problems of unemployment and inflation, the distribution of income, competition and monopoly, the role of government in the economy, other policy issues. Not open to pre-business, business administration majors or minors, economics majors or minors or international business majors.

201 Principles of Microeconomics (3)

Principles of individual consumer and producer decision-making in various market structures, the price system, market performance and government policy.

202 Principles of Macroeconomics (3)

Prerequisite: ECON 201. Principles of macroeconomic analysis and policy, unemployment and inflation, financial institutions, international trade, economic growth, comparative systems. One or more sections offered online.

310 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (3)

Prerequisites: ECON 202, MATH 135. Corequisite: BUAD 301, ISDS 361A or equivalent. Rational decision-making behavior of consumers and firms, price and output determination in markets. Primarily for economics majors, but open to all students who qualify.
315 Intermediate Business Microeconomics (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 202, MATH 135. Corequisite: BUAD 301, ISDS 361A or equivalent. Business decisions in alternative market structures with special emphasis on problem-solving in a business context using economic concepts and methods. Not open to economics majors. Students may not receive credit for both ECON 310 and 315. One or more sections offered online.

320 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 202, MATH 135. Corequisite: BUAD 301, ISDS 361A or equivalent. Determinants of the level of national income, employment and prices, and monetary and fiscal policies.

330 Comparative Economic Systems (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Alternative economic systems; their theoretical foundations, actual economic institutions, and achievements and failures. Contrast between socialist and capitalist systems.

332 Economies of the Pacific Rim (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Dimensions of industrialization, agriculture, investment, human resources and trade in economies of the Far East (including Japan and China), India and related nations of the Pacific Rim.

333 Economic Development: Analysis and Case Studies (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Processes of economic growth with references to developing areas. Capital formation, resource allocation, relation to the world economy, economic planning and institutional factors, with case studies. One or more sections offered online.

334 Economics of Latin America and the Caribbean (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Corequisite: BUAD 301. Regional economic problems within an international context: dependence, industrialization and the international corporation; agriculture; regional cooperation; inflation; trade and debt problems.

335 The International Economy (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Theory, practice and institutions of the international economy. International trade and investment, balance of payments, foreign exchange rates, multinational enterprise, international economic policy. Current trade issues: European Community, trade with developing countries, Eastern Europe, and the states of the former Soviet Union; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other major trade agreements.

336 Economies of the Middle East (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Economic circumstances and challenges in the Middle East. Topics include population and education, dependence on oil exports, state control of the economy, and the potential for economic growth and stability in the region.

340 Economic Research Methods (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 202, ISDS 361A or equivalent. Basics of applied economic research. How to access existing economic knowledge, locate and compile economic data, and analyze economic problems using theory and quantitative methods.

350 American Economic History (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Development of American economic institutions; economic problems, economic growth and economic welfare.

351 European Economic History (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 201. Evolution of European economic institutions and development of industry, commerce and finance, from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Industrial Revolution. Traces historical path that culminated in European economic hegemony.

355 Economics of Gender and Work (3)
Prerequisites: completion of General Education Category D.1 and junior or senior standing. Economic analysis of demographic trends and changing gender roles and experiences in paid and unpaid work, education, earnings and market discrimination using economic theory. International comparisons. (Same as WMST 355.)

361 Urban Economics (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Theory and analysis of the urban economy, urban economic problems and policy.

362 Environmental Economics (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 100 or 201. Economic analysis of environmental problems and related issues: externalities, property rights, social costs and benefits, user cost, rent and decision making under uncertainty.

410 Industrial Organization (3)
Prerequisite: BUAD 301, ECON 310 or equivalent. Business organization, conduct and performance: rationale and impact of public policy on business and business activities, including the regulated industries, sick industries and antitrust policy.

411 International Trade (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301, ECON 310 or 315 or equivalent. Theories of international trade. Gains from trade, effects of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and conduct of commercial policy. Balance of payments, theories of exchange rate determination and other international economic issues.

412 Labor Economics (3)
Prerequisite: BUAD 301, ECON 310 or equivalent. Labor supply and demand, labor force participation, employment, unemployment, human capital, wage differentials, disadvantaged labor market groups, discrimination and wage-related income transfers.
413 Law and Economics (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301; ECON 310 or 315. Economic analysis of the common law – property, contract and tort – focusing on the use of microeconomic theory to study the economic efficiency characteristics and effects of these laws. Analysis of specific legal cases.

415 Economics of Health (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 340 or equivalent. Application of economic reasoning to the analyses of health-related issues, markets, practice, education, research, and policy within social and political contexts.

416 Benefit Cost and Microeconomic Policy Analysis (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301; ECON 310 or equivalent. Application of microeconomic models and welfare economics to public policy. Concepts of economic efficiency, economic surplus and equity. Measurement of policy effects, including benefit-cost analysis, with applications to selected policy areas such as education and environmental programs.

417 Public Finance (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301; ECON 310 or equivalent. Government finance at the federal, state and local levels; impact of taxation and spending on resource allocation, income distribution, stabilization and growth.

418 Behavioral Economics (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 310 or 315. Integrates insights from psychology into economics models. Evidence of violations of standard economic assumptions, theories that can explain those violations and applications to real-world examples.

420 Money and Banking (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301; ECON 320 or equivalent. Money supply process and impact of monetary policy on economic activity.

421 Monetary and Fiscal Policy (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301; ECON 320 or equivalent. Techniques of monetary and fiscal policy and their relative roles in promoting economic stability and growth.

431 International Macroeconomics and Growth (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301, ECON 320. Macroeconomic analysis of the open economy: impact of stabilization policies in a global economy, role of the balance of payments, international monetary system and growth in less developed countries.

433 The Less Developed Countries and the World Economy (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 310, 315 or 515, and ECON 320 or 521. Development and underdevelopment in the poorer countries in the context of a changing international economic order. Neo-classical and political economy approaches. Includes case studies from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

440 Introduction to Econometrics (3)
Prerequisite: BUAD 301, ECON 340, ISDS 361A or equivalent. Economic measurement: specification and estimation of econometric models; statistical methods in economic research.

441 Introduction to Mathematical Economics (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301, ECON 202 and MATH 135 or equivalent. Economic theory from microeconomics and macroeconomics. Content varies; constrained optimization problems and rational decision-making.

450 History of Economic Thought (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301; ECON 310 or 320. Major schools of thought and of leading individual economists as they influenced economic thought and policy.

461 Ecological Economics (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301 and ECON 310 or 315 or equivalent. Application of economic concepts and methods to understanding the ways in which human economic behavior contributes to environmental and ecosystem degradation; the use of economic approaches to evaluate and manage these impacts; the design of sustainable economic policies. One or more sections offered online.

462 Natural Resource Economics (3)
Prerequisites: BUAD 301 and ECON 310 or 315 or equivalent. Concepts and principles in the application of economics to issues in natural resource economics. Issues include uncertainty and risk in investment, depletion over time, cartelization, the role of technological innovation and government intervention related to fuels, water, land, etc.

490 Economics Capstone (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 310, 320, 340. Capstone experience for Economics majors. Students demonstrate facility with economic theory and quantitative methods by presenting teaching topics, summarizing news reports and scholarly journal articles, writing policy briefs on selected economic topics and replicating empirical findings from economics literature.

495 Internship (1-3)
Prerequisites: Economics major, BUAD 301, ISDS 361A, ECON 310 or 320; international business major, ECON 202 and 335, ISDS 361A; consent of the department internship adviser; at least junior standing; 2.5 GPA and one semester in residence at the university. Planned and supervised work experience. May be repeated for a total of six units of credit. Credit/No Credit only.

499 Independent Study (1-3)
Prerequisites: Economics major or concentration, BUAD 301, ECON 310 and 320 or the equivalents, senior standing, and consent of department chair. Directed independent inquiry. May be repeated for credit. Not open to students on academic probation.
502 Advanced Microeconomic Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: ECON 441. Advanced treatment of rational decision-making behavior of consumers and firms, the price system, and resource allocation in partial and general equilibrium settings. Topics include preference theory, welfare economics, gains from trade, monopoly power, external costs and benefits, public goods, factor markets, intertemporal decisions, risk and uncertainty.

503 Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 320 or equivalent and classified graduate status in Economics. Determination of employment, fluctuations of real and money income, and the forces underlying economic growth.

504 Econometric Analysis (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 440 or equivalent and classified graduate status in economics. Contemporary methods for analyzing microeconomic data, focusing on instrumental variables estimation, probit, logit and tobit models, models of sample selection and panel data methods.

505 Economic Models and Forecasting (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 440 and classified graduate status in economics. Statistical methods of econometric estimation and forecasting. Practical solutions to problems in model specification, estimation by regression, time series analysis and forecasting.

506 Economics of Aging (3)
(Same as GERO 506)

515 Microeconomic Perspective for Managers (3)
Prerequisites: classified MCBE status and MATH 135 or equivalent. Individual economic agents – demand side consumers and supply side producers. Market structures ranging from perfect competition to monopoly. Features of organizational architecture: the assignment of decision rights within organizations; the reward system; and the performance-evaluation system. (Not open to M.A. Economics candidates.)

516 Economics and Benefit-Cost Analysis (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 201 and classified graduate status in Economics or Environmental Studies or Public Administration. Economics and benefit-cost analysis of public projects. Consumer demand and the estimation of benefits; the nature of cost in a market economy; price controls, unemployment and inflation; and criteria for choice, for multi-year projects. For elective credit in the M.S. Environmental Studies or Master of Public Administration.

521 Macroeconomic Perspective for Managers (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 310 or 515 or equivalent and classified MCBE status. Managerial use of local, national and global macroeconomic trends and data to make decisions. Impact that changes in taxes, government spending and Federal Reserve Bank monetary policy have on business, real estate and financial markets. (Not open to M.A. Economics candidates or students with credit for ECON 320.)

528 Financial Economics (3)
(Same as FIN 528)

531 International Economics (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 310, 315, 515 or equivalent, and classified MCBE status, and ECON 320 or 521. Theories and current issues in international trade, finance, macroeconomics and growth, with an emphasis on business applications.

590 Topics in Economic Analysis and Policy (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 310 and 320 or equivalent; classified graduate status in economics. Contemporary research in areas such as resource economics; history of economic thought; international monetary systems; forecasting; economics of planning; trade and development; human resource economics. May be repeated for credit.

595 Current Research in Economics (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 502, 503; 504 or 505. Students read, present and replicate scholarly research published in peer-reviewed journals covering a variety of topics in economics. They receive guidance as to research methodology, composition of a research paper and professional presentation. Attendance at departmental research seminars required.

598 Thesis Research (3)
Prerequisites: ECON 502, 503, 504 and classified graduate status in economics. Corequisite: ECON 505. Selection and approval of topic; outline; methodology; literature survey; data collection and analysis; presentation of results. Award of the grade is contingent upon the completion and acceptance of the thesis.

599 Independent Graduate Research (1-3)
Prerequisites: ECON 440, 502, 503; classified graduate status; and consent of instructor and Department Chair (or designee). Directed advanced independent inquiry. May be repeated for credit. Not open to students on academic probation.