

# Why Major in *ECONOMICS* at Georgia College?

The choice of a major is an important life decision; it constitutes a significant step in shaping your future opportunities. According to a recent *USA Today* report, forty percent of workers ages 20-29 say they are in the wrong career. To avoid this situation, you should choose a major that interests you and will provide the power and flexibility to satisfy the current and future needs of employers. Economics is a great choice because it provides career flexibility.

Despite common misconceptions (including those that come from high school classes), economics is not just about money, the stock market or “the economy.” It is a behavioral science—the only social science for which a Nobel Prize is awarded. Economics draws upon the traditional liberal arts such as history and philosophy; natural sciences such as mathematics and physics; and social sciences, such as political science, sociology, and psychology. The interdisciplinary nature of economics lies at the heart of a liberal arts university.

The most basic and enduring strength of economics is that it provides a logical, ordered way of analyzing social problems (e.g., poverty, unemployment, crime, economic growth, the effects of government policy, pollution) as well as individual behavior (e.g., the labor-leisure tradeoff, drug addiction, taxes, voting, marriage, consumer behavior, business decisions).

Consider these aspects of our Economics Program:

- 📖 **Curriculum Flexibility** — The economics program is the only program in the School of Business that offers B.A. and B.S. degrees. The B.A. program includes 21-24 elective hours, and the B.S. includes 30 elective hours of coursework. This enables students to complete a minor or a double major—within four years of study. (Other programs in the School of Business allow only 6 or 9 non-business elective hours, making it impossible to complete a minor or double major without spending extra time in school.)
- 📖 **Respected Degree & Career Flexibility** — Economics graduates have an advantage entering the job market because employers recognize that economics curricula are rigorous and challenging. Unlike some programs, the economics curriculum is *not* just job training. Instead, we focus on teaching analytical and critical thinking, deductive reasoning, quantitative tools, and communication skills. These skills are sought by employers in all fields. This means economics graduates have flexibility, which is critical in today’s world, where it is common to make several job changes during a career.
- 📖 **Preparation for Graduate School** — If you’re thinking of law school, graduate training in economics, or getting an MBA, an economics degree is excellent preparation. For example, a 2006 study of the Law School Admissions Test reported that economics majors score higher than any other major! In 2006 we introduced a Concentration in Graduate Study Preparation for B.S. students. The concentration prepares students by focusing them on the math tools

necessary for graduate study. In recent years, graduates from the Georgia College economics program have been accepted to high-quality Ph.D., law, and MBA programs.

- 📖 **Public Economics Concentration** — With four faculty specializing in public economics, we are able to offer a variety of courses that focus on different aspects of government and public policy. Students who are interested in working in business or government, or who are interested in graduate programs in economics, political science, or law, may wish to take the concentration in public economics.
- 📖 **ECON Majors Get Paid More!** — On average, economics majors earn more than any other major offered at Georgia College (except nursing and computer science)!
- 📖 **Small Classes** — Our upper-level economics courses usually have fewer than 20 students. Small classes help to facilitate student-professor interaction. Because the economics program is relatively small, economics students often work through their courses in “cohorts,” which makes the classroom atmosphere informal and collegial.
- 📖 **Senior Seminar** — Our “Senior Seminar” capstone course (ECON 4990) focuses on economic research. During the seminar, students are required to read and present economic research. In addition, each student is required to produce a formal research paper. This capstone course provides a preview of graduate school as it helps to develop the communications and research skills necessary for a successful career in business or research.
- 📖 **Student Organizations** — Our best economics students are honored with invitations to join the prestigious Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society in economics. All economics students are invited to join the Econ Club, which sponsors guest speakers, field trips, occasional lunch seminars, and other social activities. Aside from their formal activities, these organizations facilitate informal interaction among economics students and faculty.
- 📖 **Faculty** — We have seven full-time Ph.D. economists and two Ph.D. finance professors in the department. Our professors have diverse backgrounds, receiving their doctorates from respected schools like Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, Purdue, Texas A&M, Texas (Arlington), Virginia, and Wisconsin. This degree of faculty diversity is rare in departments at Georgia College. For students, it means they receive a valuable diversity of perspectives. In terms of research, our faculty are very active, and regularly publish in a variety of peer-reviewed journals.
- 📖 **For More Information...** Go to <http://economics.gcsu.edu>, or contact Ken Farr at [ken.farr@gcsu.edu](mailto:ken.farr@gcsu.edu).