

The Econ Advising FAQ Sheet:

So, you've declared yourself as an economics major. Now what? This document is designed to answer some of the most common questions that new econ majors ask about the curriculum, job prospects, etc. Let us know if this is helpful, and let us know if there are questions that you think we should add to this document.

(1) What can advisors in the economics office help me with?

The things that we can do for you include helping you plan your coursework, helping you understand the graduation requirements for the econ major specifically, and helping you learn about graduate and professional school options for economics majors. For questions about graduation requirements outside the economics major (total hours, upper division hours, QA, QB, HF, FF, SF, WR2, CW, DV, BA, etc.), it will be more efficient for you to consult with a University College advisor.

(2) I took [Econ 4650, 5050, 5060, 5080, 5400, 5410, 5430, 5460, or 5470]. Will this course count as both a "focus area" class and as an economics elective?

No. Courses that are used to fulfill the focus area requirement do not double count toward the economics elective requirement. Just keep in mind that you need 12 econ courses (or approved substitutes), along with 12 allied hours (probably 4 courses), to complete the economics department requirements.

(3) What did you mean just then when you said "approved substitutes"?

You can complete the Econ 3620 (Mathematics for Economists) and Econ 3640 (Probability and Statistics for Economists) requirements with courses outside of Econ. Specifically, completion of Math 1100, 1210, 1220, 1250, or 1260 will cover the Econ 3620 requirement, and SBS 3000, Psych 3000, FCS 3210, SOC 3112, Math 3070 or the combination of MGT 2340 and 3440 (you need to take BOTH courses) will cover Econ 3640. Please note that if you take an upper-division course outside of econ to fulfill this requirement (like SBS 3000 or Math 3070), that course MAY NOT also be used for allied credit. Again, you need 12 econ courses (or approved substitutes for 3620 and 3640), plus 12 hours of allied work, to complete the departmental requirements.

(4) I took [an economics course] at [another university]. The credit shows up on my DARS as a transfer course, but it doesn't seem to be fulfilling any economics requirements. Why not?

In most cases, we will have to manually update your record in order to indicate how your transfer coursework counts toward your completion of the economics major. The University will first accept the credit, and it will show up on your DARS. Once that happens, you need to come to the department office to have us figure out how that coursework will fit into your departmental work. You should provide us with a syllabus or at least a course description to help us evaluate the course. We can do this only for economics courses or for courses that might count as "allied credit." If you have transfer courses that you think should fulfill non-departmental requirements, you need to talk to a University College advisor about that. (If your transfer courses are coming from a school within Utah, much of this will occur automatically, especially for lower division courses.)

(5) I took an upper-division course in [...]. I think it should count for allied credit, but it is not showing up that way on my DARS report. Why not?

We accept allied credit only from specific departments. The list is long, but it doesn't include every department on campus. Please consult this list (on the back of the major sheet, and in the university catalog) before scheduling courses for allied credit. In rare cases, we will make exceptions and count as allied some upper-division work from departments not on this list. However, we will consider this ONLY if you seek pre-approval (before enrolling in the relevant courses), if you provide us with syllabi or course descriptions, and if you make a case (in writing) as to why these courses are important for your academic and career goals. (Please keep in mind that allied work must be upper-division, the courses must be taken for a grade, and you must earn a C- or better.)

(6) Should I do a BS degree or a BA degree?

If you complete the standard econ departmental requirements, you will qualify for a BS degree. If you want to earn a BA, you must get credit for additional foreign language work (basically a fourth-semester course or its equivalent, but consult with University College advisors if you are uncertain). This choice will not, to our knowledge, have any effect on your ability to get a job or your success in applying to graduate school. It will give you a way to formally certify additional language skills that you have earned.

(7) I want to take a particular course next year. Can you tell me when it will be offered?

The core courses in econ (2010, 2020, 3620, 3640, 4010, and 4020) are offered every semester in multiple sections. Several electives and focus area courses (3100, 3200, 3500, 3540, 4650, 5060, 5190, 5470) have been offered every semester for the past several years. Other courses tend to be offered once a year, sometimes on a regular basis and sometimes not. If there is a specific course that you are interested in, we can tell you when we've historically offered it and what the likely future schedule is.

(8) I am graduating next semester and need to start looking for a job. What should I do?

The best resources on campus for helping you with your job search can be found at the Career Services Office, in room 350 in the Student Services Building. In addition, the Economics Department participates in a job posting board which you can find through the "Job Resource Center" link on the department's home page (www.econ.utah.edu). We also post job advertisements to the Econ undergraduate web page (linked at "undergraduate information" at www.econ.utah.edu) as we receive them.