What Can I Do with a Major in Economics

How to use this guide
DePaul’s Career Roadmap was designed to help students and alumni navigate the career development process by describing the Career Center’s services and resources as they relate to four steps: Know Yourself, Explore and Choose Options, Gain Knowledge and Experience, and Putting it all Together. This major guide uses the same four steps to help you explore and consider the possibility of pursuing a degree in Economics:

Step 1  Know Yourself: Helps you explore whether this field suits your interests, skills, and values.
Step 2  Explore and Choose Options: Provides you with information about the major and occupations related to it.
Step 3  Gain Knowledge and Experience: Teaches you how to gain relevant knowledge and experience for your occupational interest.
Step 4  Putting It All Together: Helps you embark on your job search process.

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Step 1: Know Yourself

Think about what has attracted you to economics and why it might be the right major for you. Take some time to consider your interests, skills, and values, and compare them with the information below. Keep in mind that you may not identify with everything noted below, but be conscious of whether the listed interests, skills, and values complement or run contrary to how you identify.

Interests, Skills and Values:
People who major in Economics often have:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interests</th>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cause and Effect Reasoning</td>
<td>Analytical Thinking</td>
<td>Independence &amp; Autonomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
<td>Precision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If what is listed above matches, or is related in a way to your own interests, skills and values, a degree in economics may be for you. Continue to explore this resource to learn more.

Another Look at Interests:

John Holland’s Occupational Themes
Learning about your interests will help you identify opportunities to pursue and the topics you are most naturally drawn to. John Holland developed a theory of occupational interests that described six major interest areas (learn about all six interest areas here). Of those six interest areas, Economics students often identify with interests in the following categories:

Investigative: People with Investigative interests have a strong scientific, inquiring orientation. Learn more: [http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_documents/hexagon_investigative.pdf](http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_documents/hexagon_investigative.pdf)

Conventional: People with Conventional interests enjoy working with data and have clerical or numerical abilities. They like to carry things out in detail or follow through on instructions. Learn more: [http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_documents/hexagon_conventional.pdf](http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_documents/hexagon_conventional.pdf)

Learn more about “Step 1: Knowing Yourself”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
- Skills and Accomplishments
- Strong Interest Explorer
- Work Values
Step 2: Explore and Choose Options

Whether you have already chosen Economics as a major or are still considering it among other possibilities, it is important to explore the career and academic options this major will open up for you.

Concentrations:

DePaul’s department of Economics offers the following concentrations within the major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Science in Commerce or Bachelor of Arts</strong>&lt;br&gt;Standard</td>
<td>This concentration has more of a business rather than social science focus. It provides students with an understanding of the principles of micro- and macroeconomic topics including unemployment, inflation, price determination, consumer choice theory, and market structure. Focuses on a wide range of topics such as economic development, environmental issues, poverty, urban and regional development, international trade, labor issues, and economic history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Arts</strong>&lt;br&gt;International Focus</td>
<td>This concentration focuses on economics of socialism and low-income countries, global trends, and international trade. Graduates of this concentration may take interest in careers as consultants, executives of multinational corporations, journalists, policy-makers, and professors in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Arts</strong>&lt;br&gt;Public Policy and Pre-Law</td>
<td>This concentration focuses on American economic history, economics of the public sector, legislation, regulation, and antitrust laws. Ideal for students who wish to enter graduate programs in Law, Public Policy, or Public Administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Arts</strong>&lt;br&gt;Quantitative Economics</td>
<td>This concentration focuses on the systematic study of mathematical and statistical analysis of economics and economic forecasting. Graduates of this concentration may take interest in careers as econometricians, business consultants, statisticians, research staffers for policy makers, and investment advisors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learn more:
DePaul: [http://economics.depaul.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp](http://economics.depaul.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp)

Curriculum:
Please follow this link to review the curriculum for a degree in Economics. Also, note the classes you will need to take.

Learn more about these classes: [http://sr.depaul.edu/catalog/catalogfiles/Current/Undergraduate%20Course%20Descriptions/pg37.html](http://sr.depaul.edu/catalog/catalogfiles/Current/Undergraduate%20Course%20Descriptions/pg37.html)
**Occupations:**
The following list, organized by suggested concentration, offers a *sampling* of career paths that might appeal to economics students. It is not meant to be all inclusive or limiting, but rather is intended to provide you with a starting point for considering the possibilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bachelor of Science in Commerce or Bachelor of Arts Standard</th>
<th>Associate Professor*, Business Forecaster, Economic Analyst, Economist*, Financial Economist*, Journalist, Macro/Microeconomist, Research Economist*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Quantitative Economics</td>
<td>Econometrician*, Econometrician/Statistician Software Developer, Digital Economist*, Public Finance Analyst, Quantitative Economist*, Quantitative Researcher*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These occupations may require additional training and/or a graduate or doctoral degree. Speak with a Career Advisor to learn more.

Learn more: Source detailed descriptions of these and other occupations, including job responsibilities, educational requirements, associated interests and values, job outlook, salary data, and more using the following resources:

- O*NET: [http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/19-3011.00](http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/19-3011.00)

**Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK):**
Learn from DePaul alumni about how they have used their economics degree. ASK is a great way to begin building your network by connecting with these mentors. Below is a *sample* of job titles reported by alumni with economics degrees:

- Adjunct Faculty – Economics
- Assistant Bank Examiner
- Brigade Trial Counsel
- Cash Management Analyst
- Economist
- Financial Advisor
- Financial Representative
- Hedge Fund Performance Analyst
- Investment Banking Analyst
- Portfolio Manager
- Senior Compliance Examiner
- Senior Trial Attorney
- Software Consultant
- Valuation Associate
- Vice President

Learn more about how to connect with alumni: [http://ask.depaul.edu/](http://ask.depaul.edu/)
Online Resources:
Research more about economics:

- American Agricultural Economic Association: http://www.aaea.org/
- American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association: http://www.areuea.org/
- Association for Evolutionary Economics: http://www.associationforevolutionaryeconomics.org
- Council for Economic Education: http://www.councilforeconed.org/
- European Economic Association: http://www.eeassoc.org/
- The Economic Times: http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/
- National Association for Business Economics: http://www.nabe.com/
- National Association for County Community and Economic Development: http://www.nacced.org/
- National Economic Association: http://www.neaecon.org/
- Western Economic Association International: http://www.wear.org/index.html

Learn more about “Step 2: Explore and Choose Options”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- Beyond Mingling: Networking Strategies
- LinkedIn & Other Social Media
- Networking Skills
Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience

Complementing your coursework in economics with internship, volunteer, work, and organization experiences is one of the smartest moves you can make in relation to your career development. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to apply and build upon the knowledge you are gaining in the classroom, while also developing content for your resume in preparation for future opportunities.

Internships:

Here is a sample list of internships you might consider while pursuing a degree in economics. Please note, any mentioned internship below is not restricted to its respective concentration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bachelor of Science in Commerce or Bachelor of Arts Standard</th>
<th>Business Analyst Intern, Customer Analyst Intern, Economic Research Intern, Equity Analyst Intern, Fund Accounting Specialist Intern, Marketing Analyst Intern, Research Analyst Intern, Risk Management Intern, Supply Chain &amp; Logistics Intern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts International Focus</td>
<td>Equity Analyst Translation Intern, Global Climate Change Intern, International Logistics Coordinator Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Public Policy and Pre-Law</td>
<td>Book Research Assistant Intern, Economic Policy Intern, Legislative Intern, Major Emerging Economies Intern, Planning Division Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Quantitative Economics</td>
<td>Actuarial Internship, Associate Data Analyst Internship, Quantitative Research Analyst Intern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search and apply for internships listed by employers specifically seeking DePaul candidates at: [http://depaul.experience.com](http://depaul.experience.com)

Find Internships:

Visit these sites to search and apply for more internships:

DePaul Resources:

Economics Specific Resources:
- Economics Intern Abroad: [http://www.internabroad.com/search/economics](http://www.internabroad.com/search/economics)

Additional Resources:
- Indeed.com: [http://www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
- Collegegrad.com: [http://www.collegegrad.com](http://www.collegegrad.com)
- CollegeRecuriter.com: [http://www.collegerecuriter.com](http://www.collegerecuriter.com)
- Careeronestop.org: [http://www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- Careerbuilder.com: [http://careerbuilder.com](http://careerbuilder.com)
Student Organizations and Professional Organizations:

To gain more knowledge and experience, as well as to network and build your resume, consider joining student and professional organizations related to economics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Organizations</th>
<th>Student Organizations at DePaul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- American Agricultural Economic Association</td>
<td>- Alpha Kappa Psi: Business Fraternity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- American Economic Association</td>
<td>- Economics Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association</td>
<td>- Omicron Delta Epsilon: International Economics Honor Society DePaul Pi Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Association for Evolutionary Economics</td>
<td>- Phi Alpha Delta: Pre-Law Fraternity International DePaul Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Association for Business Economics</td>
<td>- Find More:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Association for County Community and Economic Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Economic Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research and Guide Books:

Find these and more economics research and guide books at DePaul’s libraries.

- *Top Careers for Economics Graduates* by Facts on File, Inc. Staff
- *Great Jobs for Economics Majors* by Blythe Camenson
- *Lost Art of Economics: Essays on Economics and the Economics Profession* by David Colander

Learn more about the library and how to borrow these books: [http://library.depaul.edu/](http://library.depaul.edu/)

Graduate and Doctoral Programs:

Learn more about DePaul’s graduate and doctoral economics programs:

[http://economics.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp](http://economics.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp)

List of other University programs:

[http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/gradstudents/Schools.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/gradstudents/Schools.htm)

U.S. News and World Report Graduate Schools Rankings:


Learn more about “Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Prepare for Graduate School
- How to Work a Job & Internship Fair
- University Internship Program (UIP) Orientation
- Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Orientation
- iPrep: Find Your Dream Internship
- Navigating Student Employment
Step 4: Putting it all Together

The job search process can be challenging, but with the right tools, guidance, and persistence, success can be yours. Below are a number of resources that you are invited to take advantage of as a DePaul student and/or alumni.

Career Advisors for Commerce:
If you have not already done so, set an appointment with a Career Advisor to discuss your post-graduation goals and strategies for achieving them. To set an appointment with your advisor, please call the Loop Career Center at (312) 362-8437.

Career Advisors for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
If you have not already done so, set an appointment with a Career Advisor to discuss your post-graduation goals and strategies for achieving them. To set an appointment with your advisor, please call the Lincoln Park Career Center at 773-325-7431.

Attend Workshops:
The Career Center's career development workshops are designed to help you build and strengthen your career-related skills so you can make well-informed decisions and prepare for your job or internship search.

The Career Center offers free workshops on over 25 topics throughout the year, including resume writing, interviewing skills, effective self-marketing techniques, networking, managing your career path and many more. Workshops facilitators have in-depth knowledge in the topics covered and allow you the opportunity to ask questions throughout each session.

Pre-register for all workshops online through DePaul.Experience.

Learn more: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/events/default.aspx
Prepare your Resume:
Depending on the internship or job you are applying to, consider including the following types of information on your resume:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Level Professionals</th>
<th>Experienced Professionals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Certifications (at the top if related to career; at the bottom if not)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Coursework</td>
<td>Professional Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Projects</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad Experience</td>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Experience (Work and/or Internship)</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical/Computer Skills</td>
<td>Professional Affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizations</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Associations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view resume samples and an online resume tutorial, visit:
http://careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/default.aspx

Or meet with a Peer Career Advisor to plan, develop and/or critique your resume. Peer Career Advising is a good place for students and alumni to begin the process of career planning. The Peer Career Advisors are undergraduate and graduate students who have been carefully selected and trained by the Career Center to work with students and alumni in an advisory capacity.

Prepare for Interviews:
To prepare for an interview for an internship or job, the Career Center offers:

- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Practice Interviews** – Sign up in DePaul.Experience for a practice interview with DePaul alum. This real interview scenario will allow you to gain feedback from your practice interviewer on your interviewing strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Mentors** – ASK mentors are willing to meet with you individually to help you with your interviewing skills. ASK mentors are a good option to consider as they have valuable industry-specific interviewing tips.
- **Peer Career Advisors** – Meet with a Peer Career Advisor on a walk-in basis to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a mock interview. Peer Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you need quick interviewing help.
- **Career Advisors** – Set up an appointment with your Career Advisor to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a more advanced mock interview. Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you are seeking more job specific interviewing tips.
- **Career Center Workshops** – Register for such interviewing workshops as “Interviewing Skills” or “Advanced Interviewing Skills” in DePaul.Experience.
- **For other interviewing resources** – Please visit:
  http://careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/interviewprep.aspx
Salary Resources:

- Salary.com: http://www.salary.com
- Wage web: http://www.wageweb.com
- NACE Salary Survey 2008: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_downloads/sschartSP08.gif
- Indeed.com’s Salary Search: http://www.indeed.com/salary
- Vault.com’s Salaries and Compensation: http://www.vault.com/salaries.jsp

Learn more about “Step 4: Putting it all Together”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Build a Portfolio
- Interviewing Skills
- Negotiation Skills
- Job Search Strategies in a Challenging Job Market