

**Example Pathways for Completing an Economics
Major for Students with Different Career Interests**

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Helpful Reminders for Students

These are examples.

Students often ask professors and advisors what courses fit together well for the career path they want to pursue. The economics faculty have designed some sample pathways for students interested in different applications of an economics degree. They are not prescriptive (that is, we do not imply that you *must* plan your courses like this). Also, we are not saying that you should *only* take courses listed on a pathway; we highly encourage you to take more econ classes outside your natural interests and more than the bare minimum.

You can start the major early or late.

The economics major is flexible enough to allow you to begin fulfilling the requirements in your second year. You might need to take two or more Econ classes in some semesters, though.

You should try to have Calc I and Statistics by your second year.

Remember that our core Econ 253 and 255 have calculus and statistics requirements, and 300- and 400-level courses have these core courses as prerequisites.

Take one elective as early as possible to learn whether you like economics.

Think of the major as having two main components: the core and the electives. The three core classes (Econ 251, 253 and 255) are fundamental and generally more mathematical and abstract. The electives usually focus on applications of fundamental economics. Students usually get a better sense of whether they like economics as a major if they take an elective early, rather than completing all the core courses first.

The timing of electives varies (and matters).

While we offer all core courses every semester, not all electives are offered every year. It depends on which professors are around and what the needs of the department are. If there is a class you really want to take, find out whether the professor is likely to be on leave in the next couple of years to assess whether this might be your last chance during your Oberlin career to take the class.

Courses and major/minor requirements are subject to change.

The Department's repertoire of elective courses can change. Sometimes staffing changes mean that a course can no longer be offered, or a new course can be added. Consult the Course Catalog (<https://www.oberlin.edu/registrar/catalog>) for the latest information. The same caveat applies to our major, minor and concentration requirements; check the Catalog for the most up-to-date information.

If you plan to study abroad, to double major or are a double-degree (College & Conservatory) student, you need to do extra planning.

Talk to your academic advisor.

1. Sample Pathway for a Student Interested in *Finance*

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Econ 101 Principles of Econ	Econ 241 Principles of Finance	Econ 255 Intro to Econometrics	Econ 441 Seminar Advanced Finance
Econ 211 Money & Fin. System	Econ 251 Intermediate Macro	Econ 342* Advanced Corp. Finance	
Math 133 Calculus I	Econ 253 Intermediate Micro		
Busi 116 Financial accounting	Stat 113 Statistics I		
Excel (Coursera)-enrichment			

Bold courses are core courses (required of all economics majors). Unbold courses are elective courses; see other recommended electives below.

Other Econ 2XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 227 (International Trade and Finance)

Other 3XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 306 (International Finance)
- Econ 317 (Industrial Organization)
- Econ 332 (Energy Economics)
- Econ 351 (Advanced Macroeconomic Theory)

Other 4XX seminars that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 440 (US Monetary Policy)

* Students interested in careers in the securities markets would benefit from taking Econ 341 instead of Econ 342 and an additional course or developing competency in programming.

Students who wish to complete the new *minor in finance* along with a *major in economics* can follow the above pathway and add an extra Econ 2XX elective and an extra 3XX elective. (Econ 241 and Econ 341/342 are required for the finance minor, but they cannot also be used to count toward the economics major.)

2. Sample Pathway for a Student Interested in *General Business*

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Econ 101 Principles of Econ	Econ 099 Accounting	Econ 241 Principles of Finance	Econ 317 Industrial Organization
Econ 211 Money & Fin. System	Econ 251 Intermediate Macro	Econ 255 Intro to Econometrics	Econ 441 Seminar Advanced Finance
Math 133 Calculus I	Econ 253 Intermediate Micro	Econ 342 Advanced Corp. Finance	
Excel (Coursera) - enrichment	Busi 103 Intro to Business Mgmt		
	Stat 113 Statistics I		

Bold courses are core courses (required of all economics majors). Unbold courses are elective courses; see other recommended electives below.

Other Econ 2XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 204 (Game theory for the Social Sciences)
- Econ 209 (Economic Development)
- Econ 220 (Labor Markets)
- Econ 227 (International Trade and Finance)
- Econ 231 (Environmental Economics)
- Econ 245 (Health Economics)

Other Econ 3XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 317 (Industrial Organization)
- Econ 332 (Energy Economics)
- Econ 341 (Advanced Asset Pricing)

Other Econ 4XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 417 (Industrial Organization)
- Econ 440 (US Monetary Policy)
- Econ 448 (Housing & Real Estate)

3. Sample Pathway for a Student Interested in *International Affairs*

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Econ 101 Principles of Econ	Econ 251 Intermediate Macro	Econ 227 Int'l Trade & Finance	Econ 309 Advanced Development
Econ 209 Econ Development	Econ 253 Intermediate Micro	Econ 255 Intro to Econometrics	Econ 413 Comparative Econ Dev.
Math 133 Calculus I	Stat 113 Statistics I		
Excel (Coursera) - enrichment			

Bold courses are core courses (required of all economics majors). Unbold courses are elective courses; see other recommended electives below.

Other Econ 2XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 210 (Economic Development in Latin America)
- Econ 220 (Labor Markets)
- Econ 231 (Environmental Economics)

Other Econ 3XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 306 (International Finance)
- Econ 322 (Public Economics)
- Econ 355 (Advanced Econometrics)

Other Econ 4XX seminars that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 409 (Institutions and Development)
- Econ 427 (Topics in International Trade & Firm Dynamics)
- Econ 449 (Economics and Immigration)

4. Sample Pathway for a Student Interested in *Public Policy*

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Econ 101 Principles of Econ	Econ 251 Intermediate Macro	Econ 231 Environmental Econ	Econ 322 Public Econ
Econ 220 Econ of Labor Markets	Econ 253 Intermediate Micro	Econ 255 Intro to Econometrics	Econ 430 Poverty & Income Dist
Math 133 Calculus I	Stat 113 Statistics I		
Excel/Python/R (Coursera) - enrichment			

Bold courses are core courses (required of all economics majors). Unbold courses are elective courses; see other recommended electives below.

Other Econ 2XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 204 (Game Theory for Social Scientists)
- Econ 207 (Urban Economics)
- Econ 209 (Economic Development)
- Econ 210 (Economic Development in Latin America)
- Econ 220 (Labor Markets)
- Econ 245 (Health Economics)

Other Econ 3XX electives that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 317 (Industrial Organization)
- Econ 326 (International Trade)
- Econ 332 (Energy Economics)
- Econ 353 (Advanced Microeconomics)
- Econ 355 (Advanced Econometrics)

Other Econ 4XX seminars that are particularly good for students on this path:

- Econ 409 (Institutions and Development)
- Econ 421 (Human Capital During the Life Course)
- Econ 431 (Sustainability in Agriculture)
- Econ 432 (Energy and Environmental Economics)
- Econ 435 (Behavioral Economics and Public Policy)
- Econ 448 (Housing and Real Estate)
- Econ 449 (Economics and Immigration)

Note:

- Quantitatively-oriented careers will also benefit from coursework in the math and/or computer science departments.

5. Sample Pathway for a Student Interested in a *PhD in Economics*

This pathway completes the Economics Major with Mathematical Concentration.

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Econ 101 Principles of Econ	Econ 251 Intermediate Macro	Econ 207 Urban Economics	Econ 353 Advanced Micro Theory
Econ 227 Int'l Trade & Finance	Econ 253 Intermediate Micro	Econ 255 Intro to Econometrics	Econ 355 Advanced Econometrics
Math 133 Calculus I	Math 231 Multivariable Calculus	Econ 351 Advanced Macro Theory	Math 301 Foundations of Analysis
Math 134 Calculus II	Math 232 Linear Algebra		Econ 491 Honors Program
Excel/Python/R (Coursera) - enrichment	Stat 113 Intro to Statistics		

Bold courses are core courses (required of all economics majors). Unbold courses are elective courses. For the mathematical concentration, one of Econ 351, 353 or 355 must be taken.

Notes:

- All electives work for this pathway. Ideally, you would choose multiple electives that are related to each other and in your area of research interest. Advanced theory electives (351, 353, 355) are important for preparing for the first-year of a PhD sequence.
- For potential double-majors, math is an excellent second major. Advanced computer science courses are also helpful.
- You may not be able to take all three advanced Economics courses (351, 353, 355), but it is recommended that you take as many of these as you can.

6. Sample Pathway for a Student Interested in *Economic Consulting*

1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Econ 101 Principles of Econ	Econ 251 Intermediate Macro	Econ 227 Int'l Trade & Finance	Econ 317 Industrial Organization
Econ 211 Money & Fin. System	Econ 253 Intermediate Micro	Econ 255 Intro to Econometrics	Econ 417 Sem on Ind Org
Math 133 Calculus I	Stat 113 Intro to Statistics	Econ 332 Energy Economics	
Busi 103 Intro to Business Mgmt	Busi 200 Oberlin Business Studios		
Excel/Python/R (Coursera) - enrichment			

Bold courses are core courses (required of all economics majors). Unbold courses are elective courses; see Pathway 2 (Business) or 4 (Public Policy) for other recommended electives.

Notes:

- For potential double-majors, math is an excellent second major. Advanced computer science courses are also helpful.
- Honors is helpful here, but not necessary; the Honors program is ideal for students who intend to eventually pursue economics research.