

ECONOMICS

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dean: Susan Corum

Academic Chair: Colin McCaughey

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CURRICULUM

Economics is the study of how people make choices when faced with scarcity. It is therefore the study of the process of decision-making by individuals, businesses, governments, or any other group that must make such choices, and the study of the institutional context in which these decisions are made.

The department of economics offers courses that provide the lower division requirements for students majoring in economics, business, computer science, and engineering, and also provide students majoring in other fields with an understanding of economic principles and a familiarity with the economic institutions that affect their lives. The courses offered by the department meet general education and transfer requirements for economics, business, and social sciences.

CAREER OPTIONS

Examples of careers for the economics major include the following:

- Account Manager
- Actuary
- Area Sales Manager
- Bank Officer
- Budget Analyst
- Business Forecaster
- Business Manager
- Buyer
- City Manager
- Claims Adjustor
- Commercial Casualty Underwriter
- Compensation Manager
- Credit Analyst
- Demographer
- Educator
- Employee Benefits Supervisor
- Financial Planner
- Insurance Analyst
- Investment Analyst/Banker
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Loan Officer
- Logistics Analyst
- Management Trainee
- Managing Consultant
- Managing Director
- Market Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- Pricing Analyst
- Product Control Manager
- Production Supervisor
- Purchasing Agent
- Quality Control Specialist
- Real Estate Agent/Appraiser
- Research Analyst/Research Assistant
- Securities Broker
- Statistician
- Trade Analyst
- Trust Officer
- Urban/Regional Planner

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

• Associate in Arts Degree in Economics

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major ("Major Requirements") and general education requirements (pages 36-43), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 32-35 for further information.

TRANSFER PREPARATION

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the University Studies major (page 231) and "Transfer Planning" (page 47); (2) consult the catalog of their prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance); and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: ECONOMICS

Associate in Arts Degree

Complete the following courses:

| | | Units |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| ECON 1 | Principles of Economics—Micro | 3 |
| ECON 2 | Principles of Economics—Macro | 3 |
| ECON 6 | Environmental and Resource Economics | 3 |
| ECON 10 | Statistics for Business and Economics | 4 |
| ECON 13 | Global Economics | 3 |

Complete one of the following courses:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| MATH 3A | Analytical Geometry and Calculus I | 5 |
| MATH 11 | A Brief Course in Calculus | 4 |

Complete one of the following courses:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ACCT 1A | Financial Accounting | 4 |
| CS 1 | Introduction to Computer Systems | 4 |
| ECON 105 | Personal Financial Planning | 3 |
| MATH 3B | Analytical Geometry and Calculus II | 5 |

TOTAL UNITS: 23–26

Recommended Electives:

ACCT 1B, MGT 104, MATH 26, WR 2.

COURSES

CWE 168: COOPERATIVE WORK EXPERIENCE: ECONOMICS

1–4 Units

1–4 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU

Prerequisite: Student must have taken or must be currently taking a course in college-level economics.

Limitation: Students must be concurrently enrolled in 7 units, including CWE. Application must be approved by CWE coordinator.

This course provides students an opportunity for supervised work experience. Students extend their classroom-based learning by working at a job related to their major and to their occupational goal. Student, instructor, and employer will cooperatively develop a minimum of three learning objectives. One unit of credit will be awarded for each 75 hours of paid or 60 hours of volunteer employment for successful completion of learning objectives, and for attendance at scheduled seminar sessions. A maximum of four units may be applied toward major requirements for a certificate. R-I-3

ECON 1: PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS—MICRO

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

Recommended Preparation: Math 251

This course offers an introduction to the concepts and tools of economic analysis. The course studies price theory, including supply and demand, marginal analysis, utility, cost and revenue concepts, perfect and imperfect competition, production, and factor markets. Economic principles are applied to the analysis of such problems as industrial organization, the environment, public decision-making processes, and the distribution of income. (CAN ECON 4) NR

ECON 2: PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS—MACRO

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

Recommended Preparation: Econ. 1 and Math 251

This course examines and analyzes the economic problems of scarcity, recession, unemployment, and inflation. The focus of this investigation centers on business cycles, economic growth, the measurement of output and income in the economy, the determination of the equilibrium level of output, income and price level, money creation and the banking system, monetary and fiscal policy options, international trade and finance, and the effects of the public debt. (CAN ECON 2) NR

ECON 6: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

Recommended Preparation: Wr. 1 and Math 253

This introductory environmental and resource economics course focuses on resource, agricultural, and environmental issues and related policy analysis. The course applies microeconomic principles, models and analytical tools to problems of natural resource use and environmental quality caused by human populations. Students examine and evaluate policies to remedy the market failure of inefficient resource use, environmental degradation, and pollution, both nationally and internationally. NR

ECON 10: STATISTICS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

3 Units

2.5 hours lecture; 1.5 hours lab

Transfers: CSU, UC

Prerequisite: Math 253

Recommended Preparation: Econ. 1 or 2 strongly recommended.

This introductory course presents statistical concepts and methods used extensively in business and economics, including computer-based statistical analysis. Students study descriptive and inferential statistics using examples and observations, and perform statistical analysis using software applications. Emphasis is on problem solving, interpretation and results that underlie decision-making within markets and international institutions. The course provides a foundation to prepare business economics and business administration majors for required upper division courses in quantitative methods and provides a foundation to prepare economics majors for the study of econometrics. Economics 10 is also listed as Management 10; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR

“I am an economics major and I have been at IVC for two years. I have enjoyed both years mainly because all of the teachers have been so nice and so willing to help me with my work and help me get to where I want to be. I never knew there were so many opportunities at a community college before I got to IVC. When I learned about everything IVC has to offer, I quickly got involved.”

— Patrick Tyson
IVC Economics Major

ECON 13: GLOBAL ECONOMICS

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC

Recommended Preparation: Wr. 1 and Math 253

This survey course presents a wide range of issues concerning the contemporary global economy from historical, political, and economic perspectives. It is suitable for students from all majors and backgrounds and anyone interested in learning about issues confronting the global economy. The course examines international economic choices using basic economic theories and principles to address such topics as the effects of globalization, technology, monetary and fiscal policy, international finance and global banking, international trade, currency markets and exchange rate systems, international capital flows, industrial structure, and the role of the government within the global economy. NR

ECON 20: INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU, UC credit proviso (see UC course list)

This course, designed for non-economics and non-business majors, provides a survey of both micro and macroeconomic principles and provides a foundation for Economics 1 and 2. Microeconomic areas of emphasis include scarcity, markets, supply and demand, industrial organization, and marginal analysis used for decision making by individuals and firms. Macroeconomic areas of emphasis include national income accounts, money and monetary policy, economic stabilization policies, economic growth, and international trade and finance. NR

ECON 105: PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU

Recommended Preparation: Wr. 1 and Math 253

This applied course provides an opportunity for students to evaluate their own financial and economic choices and formulate a lifelong financial plan that may be applied to personal, career and business situations. The course presents the criteria, methodology and resources essential for effective short- and long-run planning. Topics include money management, tax strategies, insurance needs, current economic conditions, credit management, investment decisions, and retirement planning. Economics 105 is also listed as Management 105; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR.

ECON 178: REAL ESTATE ECONOMICS

3 Units

3 hours lecture

Transfers: CSU

Recommended Preparation: RE 170

This course examines trends and factors that affect the value of real estate. Topics include the nature of land economics and the classification of properties; property development, construction, and subdivision; fluctuations in economic value; residential market trends; real property; and special purpose property trends. The course applies toward the state's educational requirements for the broker's examination. Economics 178 is also listed as Real Estate 178; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR

ECON 210: PERSONAL ECONOMICS—ASSET MARKETS

3 Units

3 hours lecture

This course offers an introduction to the markets for stocks, bonds, mutual funds, credit, insurance, savings and retirement. It is designed for individuals who are interested in becoming familiar with the terms, tools, and basic concepts necessary to make informed investment decisions for household management. The course emphasizes the practical aspects of personal investing, savings and retirement; evaluating risk; investment options and the proper mix of assets; credit and household insurance. This course is also listed as Management 210; credit will be given in either area, but not both. NR