College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

ECONOMICS

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) – Catalog Year Fall 2026

Program Overview

Economics is the science of decision making. The rigorous approach that typifies economics lends itself to a remarkably wide field of practical applications. Trained economists are employed by private businesses, banks, law firms, consulting firms, international corporations and agencies, public utilities, federal and local governments, and colleges and universities. These economists study a diverse array of issues such as the effects of government regulations on industries, the fairness and impacts of taxes, the effects of various policy tools in fighting inflation and unemployment, the causes of poverty, and the plight of the homeless, pollution, crime, and other social policy issues.

The Economics major provides flexibility and opportunity and can take one in many directions, both inside and outside of the field of economics. In fact, most economics majors do not work as economists, but in business careers of all varieties. The analytical and quantitative skills that one acquires as an economics major are much in demand in the job market and are also highly attractive to law schools and MBA programs. Whatever your career plans, economics training can give you a needed edge to further long-term goals.

Academic Advising

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising
clas.advising@ucdenver.edu
Visit the CLAS Advising website here
North Classroom (NC) 1030
303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Economics Major Advising
CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information
Visit the program website here
Lawrence Street Center (LSC) 470
303-315-2030

General Graduation Requirements & Policies

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 30 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

The following are **maximum** *credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

Program Requirements & Policies

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Economics B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 40 credit hours from approved major courses.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 18 upper division (3000-level and above) ECON credit hours with a minimum of 12 of at the 4000-level.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all major courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. One elective with a grade of D+, D, or D- will count towards major requirements. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 18 ECON credit hours including ECON 4811 Introduction to Econometrics, with CU Denver faculty. Once a student has enrolled at CU Denver, no more courses in the major can be taken outside the CU Denver Economics Department. This includes courses offered at Metropolitan State University. The department reserves the right to require a demonstration of competence for any core courses not taken from CU Denver faculty.
5. A minimum of 12 of the 18 upper division credit hours required must be completed with 4000 level and above courses.
6. MATH 2411 Calculus II or MATH 2421 Calculus III with a grade of B or higher will satisfy the ECON 3801 Introduction to Mathematical Economics requirement. If a student completes ECON 3801 Introduction to Mathematical Economics, and then subsequently or concurrently completes MATH 2411 Calculus II, with a grade of B or higher, ECON 3801 Introduction to Mathematical Economics will be counted as an Economics 3000-level elective but will not be used as an elective for evaluation of Honors. However, if a student has already completed MATH 2411 Calculus II with a B or better, then ECON 3801 Introduction to Mathematical Economics taken subsequently cannot be counted as an elective.
7. Internships and independent studies require approval of the department chair in order to be given credit as an economics course.

LynxConnect Resources

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect website for more information.

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Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
*** Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. ***		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	**34 - 40**	*CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements*
CLAS Graduation Requirements		*CLAS Graduation Requirements*
ECON Major Requirements	**40**	*18 credit hours must be upper-division, including 12 4000-level hours*
ECON Required Courses		
ECON 2012 Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics	3	*Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Science*
ECON 2022 Principles of Economics: Microeconomics	3	*Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Science*
ECON 3801 Introduction to Mathematical Economics *Note **: MATH2411 or MATH 2421 with a grade of B or higher will satisfy this requirement.*	3	**Prerequisite/Corequisite: C- or higher in ECON 2012* **Prerequisite: C- or higher in ECON 2022 and MATH 1110 or higher* ***If students complete ECON 3801 first and then MATH2411 with a B, ECON3801 will count as an ECON elective. If students complete MATH 2411 with a B first, ECON 3801 will not count as an elective.*
ECON 3811 Statistics with Computer Applications	4	**Prerequisite/Corequisite: ECON 2022* **Prerequisite: C- or higher in MATH 1110 or higher*
ECON 4071 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	3	**Prerequisite: C- or higher in ECON 2022 and ECON 3801 (or MATH2411 or 2421 with B or higher)*
ECON 4081 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	3	**Prerequisite: C- or higher in ECON 2012 and ECON 3801 (or MATH2411 or 2421 with B or higher)*
ECON 4811 Introduction to Econometrics	3	**Prerequisite: C- or higher in ECON 3811 or MATH 3382*
ECON Major Elective Courses: *Note: 4 electives must be at 4000-level*	18	**See major advisor for approved courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites.*
Estimated General Electives	**40 - 46**	*General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.*
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	**120**	*30 credit hours must be upper-division*

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SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees. **Students must meet with a major advisor to create an individualized plan of study.**

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 1401 *recommended*	4
ECON 2012 [C]	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
General Elective / First-Year Seminar	3
Total Credit Hours	**16**

Year 1 - Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
ECON 2022 [C]	3
CU Denver Core Humanities	3
CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science without Lab (MATH 2411 *recommended*)	4
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**16**

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
ECON 3801 [PE] *(if required – see ECON advisor)*	3
ECON 3811 [PE]	4
CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with Lab	4
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**14**

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
ECON 4071 [PE]	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**15**

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
ECON 4811 [PE]	3
ECON 4081 [PE]	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**15**

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
ECON Upper-Division Elective Course	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity [M]	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**15**

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
ECON Upper-Division Elective Course	3
ECON 4000-Level Elective Course	3
ECON 4000-Level Elective Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**15**

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
ECON 4000-Level Elective Course	3
ECON 4000-Level Elective Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	**15**

[M] Major Course Available [C] CU Denver Core Course [PE] Prerequisite Enforced [PR] Prerequisite Recommended