



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS UNDERGRADUATE ECONOMICS AT MCGILL

<http://www.mcgill.ca/economics/undergraduates/>

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Introduction

McGill's Department of Economics offers a range of programmes suited to the needs of students with a variety of interests. Some programmes are designed for students who wish to make economics their main area of study, others for those who wish to specialise in two main fields. It is also possible to follow a sequence of economics courses while specialising in another discipline, or as part of an interdisciplinary programme.

Economics programmes require that students learn a core of economic theory and quantitative methods. The depth to which these topics are studied varies considerably across the different programmes. Students use the theory and quantitative methods they have learned and extend it in the study of different fields of economics, such as labour, public finance and economic policy, money and banking, environment and natural resources, international trade, economic development, economic history, and industrial organization. The better the student's grasp of economic theory and quantitative methods, the more deeply fields of particular interest can be studied. For a complete list of economics courses offered, [click here](#).

Honours and Joint Honours

These are the most specialised and intellectually demanding undergraduate programmes in Economics. Students must satisfy math requirements and then complete a series of courses in economic theory and statistical methods. Students in the straight Honours programme complement these courses with the study of selected fields. Students pursue Joint Honours programmes with a wide variety of other disciplines. In recent years, students have combined their studies in Economics with Political Science, History, Philosophy, East Asian Studies, English, Geography,

Mathematics, Finance, and Accounting. Honours and Joint Honours degrees are open to both B.A. and B.Com. students. Some honours students proceed to graduate programmes in economics in Canada and abroad. Many others enter professional programmes in fields such as law, business or public administration, or graduate programmes in other social science disciplines.

There are two main differences between the Honours programmes in Economics and those in many other Arts disciplines. In most Honours programmes, students do only 6 credits in courses restricted to Honours students. By contrast, Honours and Joint Honours students in Economics must take a core of courses (normally 30 credits) designed specifically for Honours students. The total credit requirement for Honours in Economics is 42 credits, and for Joint Honours 30 credits, compared to approximately 54 and 36, respectively, in most other subjects. Because Economics Honours students follow a separate stream of core courses, it is possible to study many topics in much greater depth than in courses geared for students with a much wider range of interests and preparation. While many Honours students choose to take more than the minimum required credits in Economics, because of the lesser credit requirement it is possible to pursue subsidiary intellectual interests to a much greater degree in an Honours Economics programme than in many other Honours programmes.

It is very difficult to switch into the Honours programmes after the U1 year, since the sequence of Honours courses is designed to be taken over 3 academic years. It is also difficult to switch into the Honours programmes from the Major Concentration.

Mathematics prerequisites for Honours

Much of the literature in economics makes use of mathematics. Because the Honours courses start using calculus at an early stage, Calculus I and II are a prerequisite for registration in Honours. In addition, there are requirements related to Linear Algebra, although these can generally be fulfilled during the first year of the programme.

For more information on Honours and Joint Honours in Economics, [click here](#).

Major Concentration

Students who wish to specialise in Economics but want to follow a more flexible and less mathematical programme should enrol in the Major Concentration programme. Both B.A. and B.Com. students may take a Major Concentration in Economics, requiring 36 credits of economics. Students must complete 18 credits in economic theory and statistics and 18 complementary credits in Economics courses chosen from a wide variety of topics.

Many students in this programme enter professional programmes such as law or business or public administration. A few Majors students do go on to graduate studies in Economics, although an extra year of study is generally required before entering a Master's programme in economics in Canadian Universities. At McGill, Majors graduates must do a Qualifying Year before being admitted to graduate studies in economics. The Qualifying Year involves taking the core honours theory and statistics courses.

Students who are already registered in a Major Concentration in Economics and a Minor Concentration in another field and who intend to take at least 18 more credits in economics beyond the Major Concentration requirements may obtain formal recognition for the additional work they do in economics in the form of a Minor Concentration in Economics in addition to the Major Concentration.

For more information on the Major Concentration in Economics, [click here](#).

Minor Concentrations

Students completing an Honours or Major Concentration degree in another subject who wish to take several economics courses and obtain formal recognition for the more limited specialization they thereby achieve in economics may register for a Minor Concentration in Economics, which is an 18-credit programme. The theory requirements for the Minor are relatively modest and depend on which type of Minor is pursued. All students in the Minor Concentration can enrol in most 200- and 300-level courses in economics. Those who fulfil the calculus and the theory requirements by taking Calculus I and ECON 230D, the course required in the Major Concentration, may also take 400-level courses. The Minor Concentration is open to both B.Com. and B.A. students. Note, however, that MGCR 293 and ECON 295, which are required in the B.Com. programme, do not count as part of the Minor Concentration in Economics.

The Department offers four types of Minor Concentration: the Expandable Minor, for students who want the option to expand their Economics Minor into an Economics Major; the “Classic” Minor (Non-expandable), for students primarily interested in other fields; the Minor for B.Com. students; and, finally, a Minor for students already Majoring in economics who want to get formal recognition for the extra economics courses they have taken.

For more information on the Minor Concentrations in Economics, [click here](#).

Interdisciplinary Majors requiring economics

Courses in the Economics Department form part of a number of Interdisciplinary Major Concentrations. In some of these programmes, students can choose to take several Economics courses. Economics courses are part of the following interdisciplinary majors: African Studies, Canadian Studies, International Development Studies, East Asian Studies, Industrial Relations, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Middle East Studies, and North American Studies. Please note, however, that a given course may not be used to fulfil the requirements of more than one programme.

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