

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

ECONOMICS

What can I do with a major in economics?

Students planning to major in economics may pursue a variety of career paths after graduation. Some students will use their economics background to go into business, particularly finance or banking. At universities that do not offer business as an undergraduate major, economics may be a popular choice for students interested in a business career. Other students may pursue public policy careers with the government or non-profit organizations. Some students go on to study law. A graduate degree may be necessary for students who plan to teach economics or for certain positions as an economist.

Concentrations within the economics major or related majors include:

- Environmental economics
- International development
- Managerial or business economics
- Political economy

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in economics?

Students planning to major in economics at a baccalaureate institution usually take courses in **micro and macroeconomics, statistics, and calculus, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Some programs may require additional math or economics, computer science, business, or natural or social science classes. Requirements vary according to the transfer university and the particular program, so it is strongly recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in economics should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements and choose the degree that will work best for them.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Studies, Global Health or Equity and Social Justice. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as an Economics Major

- Most economics undergraduate programs will require both statistics and calculus. Some programs require a full year of calculus plus higher level math. If your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! Depending on your placement scores, you may need to take math for several quarters before you are ready to start calculus.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Almost all universities offer an economics major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you are particularly interested in international development, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in economics in Washington?

Many universities in Washington State offer an economics major. To find out which universities offer economics, you can visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.