What can I do with a degree in... ECONOMIC ANALYSIS?

Why study **ECONOMIC ANALYSIS?**

What do Mick Jagger, John Elway and former President George Bush have in common? Each studied economics as their undergraduate major. Economics is highly regarded by graduate schools as well as employers in both the public and private sector. Both are looking for students with analysis and research skills and critical thinking and writing ability. Courses in economics develop proficiency in these areas, along with an understanding of business, politics, markets and the global economy.

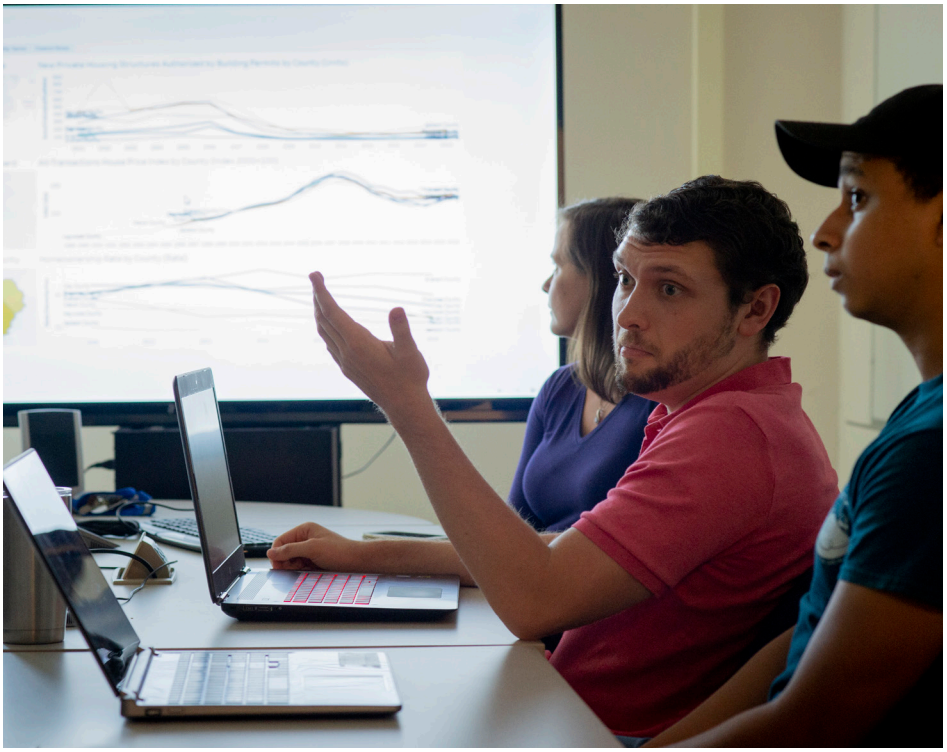
You'll learn to gather, organize, and interpret data. You will develop models to forecast the impacts of business and policy decisions. Communication skills are required to translate complex findings for business and policy professionals. Economic principles can be applied across disciplinary boundaries to generate innovative and integrative solutions.

In addition to the Economics Core, students complete non-economics courses from one of four interdisciplinary areas: analytical and quantitative, behavior, history of thought, or policy.

What is the **DEGREE OPTION?**

Bachelor of Science in Economic Analysis
NOTE: The B.S. in Economic Analysis requires a second major or minor. Students frequently choose Finance or Mathematics as a second major.

Or, students may minor in Economics.



What is the **UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Any currently enrolled student at WCU may declare Economic Analysis as an undergraduate major. Please make an appointment with your advisor via your MyWCU student portal.

What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Depending on the concentration and other qualifications, our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals including market research analyst, credit analyst, financial analyst, compensation and benefits manager, data scientist, and more.

NOTE: Advanced degrees may be required for some of the above careers. Please speak with an advisor or career counselor for more information.

Who employs **ECONOMIC ANALYSIS** graduates?

Our Business Ready® graduates will work for a variety of employers including private financial planning firms, state and local government agencies, businesses and industries, loan companies, hospitals and health organizations, and banks and other financial organizations.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR
EXCEL IN ACADEMICS	Coursework your first year will focus on foundational classes within the liberal studies catalog and introductory business core classes. Check out the **8-semester plan for your concentration** and make an appointment with your advisor.	The second year continues with additional liberal studies requirements as well as introductory Economics courses. Check out the **8-semester plan for your concentration** and make an appointment with your advisor.
GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE	Check out **WCU's DegreePlus program** and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness. See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to JobCat via your MyWCU.	Consider joining clubs or organizations related to your major such as the Finance Club If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions. Engage deeper with **DegreePlus;** choose an additional competency to complete
BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY	Connect with the **Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning** and ask about the **Spark Award,** a program aimed to encourage and recognize students who are connected with their community.	Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume. If you want to **study abroad,** this is a good year to have that experience. The Study Abroad Office has excellent suggestions on places to go to your major specifically.
PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE	Further explore your career options or career interests using the **Center for Career and Professional Development's** online resources, **Focus 2,** and **O*net Online.** Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.	Check out **CCPD's list of career-building activities** and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus. Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools you wish to apply to in a few years; label your spreadsheet with each school's admission requirements and application materials so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Entrepreneurship
Finance
History
Management
Mathematics

3rd YEAR

Courses in your third year will focus heavily on upper-level Economic Analysis and Business core requirements. Check out the **8-semester plan for your concentration** and make an appointment with your advisor..

Complete an internship that will give you practical hands-on experience in your field. Contact the CCPD for help in your internship search.

Consider networking with professionals in your field. **The American Economic Association** has numerous networking events and professional development opportunities listed.

Volunteer with nonprofits that focus on your ideal career path.

Connect with alumni in your field through **LinkedIn**

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter (Make an appointment through MyWCU)

Utilize the **Writing and Learning Commons** for GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Take the GRE, etc. Use **Big Interview** to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.

4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will continue to focus on upper-level Economic Analysis business-related topics and finishing liberal studies requirements. Check out the **8-semester plan for your concentration,** make an appointment with your advisor, and complete your degree audit, and **apply for graduation!**

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or graduate school admissions. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional organizations such as the **American Economic Association** or the **National Association for Business Economics**.

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each Fall and Spring.

Apply to graduate schools, if applicable.

Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by vising the **CCPD.**

DID YOU KNOW? Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP Information

There are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic adviser the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- information handling and organization
- statistical awareness
- oral and written communication
- numerical computation
- analytical and quantitative abilities
- problem solving
- technical skills
- teamwork
- working independently
- leadership

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- learn, understand and interpret information and apply knowledge to new situations
- set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- make well-reasoned decisions, problem-solve challenges, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals.

Professional **RESOURCES**

- American Economic Association: aeaweb.org
- Bureau of Economic Analysis: bea.gov
- National Economic Association: neaecon.org
- National Association for Business Economics: nabe.com

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Economic Analysis program at 828-227-7412.
To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.

Western Carolina University