WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS?

Students who choose to enter the job market with a degree in economics, financial economics or resource economics can expect to find well-paying jobs. In fact, economics is listed by PayScale Inc. and Kiplinger as one of the 10 best college degrees because of high salaries and job growth. Mid-career median pay for an economics major is $97,800/year (PayScale); and those with a master’s degree make about $20,000/year more (Kiplinger). The projected job growth is about 14 percent. Our graduates work in fields such as finance and banking, health care, environmental and energy consulting, resource and small business management. The jobs are in private industry, public agencies and in the nonprofit sector. Many of our undergrads pursue a graduate degree in economics, law or business.

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS AT UMAINE?

Students can work closely with faculty members on a wide variety of research and outreach projects related to sustainability, business development, state and local policy, and renewable energy. Economics is also an exciting area of study with excellent prospects for high-paying and rewarding careers. Our programs emphasize the development of analytical and critical thinking skills to solve real problems. Courses such as quantitative analysis and forecasting, econometrics and applied economic data analysis provide students with highly relevant skills, valued in the job market. Students learn how to critically analyze current business and policy issues in areas such as finance and banking, environmental economics, international trade and economic development.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The School of Economics offers degree programs in economics and financial economics, with concentrations that reflect the strengths of the department and student interests. We also advise and support students in the international affairs-economics program, and the sustainability track in the ecology and environmental sciences program.

All of our degree programs require students to take a core set of courses, including introductory and intermediate classes in macro- and micro-economics. After completing the core of economics, students work closely with their academic advisers to select a set of electives. Many students obtain double majors and minors in other academic areas to tailor their degree to their career goals. Some students select a degree concentration, which includes economics classes and those offered outside of the department. All of our upper-level courses are small in size, promoting lively classroom discussions. For students thinking about graduate school, our new 4 + 1 degree allows undergraduate students to accelerate their plans by beginning their graduate degree while still an undergrad.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

Students are able to work closely with one another, or with our award-winning faculty as a research or teaching assistant. In addition, we connect students with our alumni who provide networking opportunities and professional-development mentoring. The economics lab is a great resource for students who need a place to work on group projects with classmates or meet with an instructor. The School of Economics encourages students to get involved in research projects, to study abroad or take part in summer internship programs — course credit is available for all of these options. In recent years, our graduate and undergraduate students have worked with businesses and communities; wind-energy engineers; town officials on a tourism survey; and environmental and health agencies looking to protect infant health. These experiences provide valuable professional skills, work experience and are often paid.
OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM

The School of Economics offers graduate degree programs in resource economics and policy, economics, financial economics, and supports students in the ecology and environmental sciences program. We also have formal dual-degree programs with the School of Policy and International Affairs. Because of our active, multimillion dollar research grants, most of our graduate students obtain teaching or research assistantships which provide free tuition, subsidized health insurance and a generous stipend. Finance students can get experience working with several finance officers in the area, and other students can obtain paid internships with the Maine Development Foundation and with state or municipal agencies.

OUR FACULTY

The School of Economics is home to many award-winning faculty who are recognized internationally for high-quality instruction and research. Faculty are innovative in their use of technology and other tools to enhance student learning. Several faculty have been involved in extensive study and analysis of best-practices for teaching and assessment. Our faculty take an active role in student advising with a shared goal of enhancing the student’s professional development. Faculty have active research programs yielding plenty of opportunities for independent research, and paid research assistantships. Strong students can get their work published in academic journals, and present their research at conferences. Our faculty are regularly called upon by federal and state officials, media outlets and government and nonprofit organizations to share their expertise. The faculty hold leadership and editorial board positions with professional associations and journals.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.