

Economics Major Orientation

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September 29, 2020

Introduction

- Outline for the session:
 - ① Introductions
 - ② Presentation from Undergraduate Student Affairs
 - ③ Overview of the Department of Economics and its major degree programs
 - ④ Honors Program in Economics
 - ⑤ Online resources
- These slides are available online at:
https://www.briancjenkins.com/pdf/Fall_2020_UCI_Econ_Orientation.pdf

Facts about the Department

- 31 regular faculty members with diverse research interests.
- 2,827 undergraduate majors (as of Fall 2019).
 - ① Economics (801 majors)
 - ② Business Economics (1,721 majors)
 - ③ Quantitative Economics (305 majors)
- About 9.4% of all majors undergraduate majors (as of Fall 2019).
- Whether you should enroll in one of our three majors and which major you should choose depends on your interests and post-UCI ambitions.

What is an Economics Major?

- From the UCI Department of Economics webpage:

Economics is the study of the allocation of scarce resources; the way that individuals, groups, governments, and businesses make choices; and the consequences of those choices for people, nations, and society.

- An economics degree (even business economics) is much more like a traditional liberal arts degree than a profession-oriented degree like business administration or accounting.

- **Economics:** designed for students seeking a broad education applicable to occupations in business, law, and government or as preparation for graduate school in social sciences.
- **Business Economics:** for students seeking a business orientation in their study of economics. It does not replicate the traditional undergraduate business school curriculum.
- **Quantitative Economics:** best prepares students for careers in business and finance, for law school, for M.B.A. programs, and for graduate studies in the social sciences.
The Department strongly urges students to consider the major in Quantitative Economics.

Department of Economics Honors Program

- Write an original research paper under the direction of a faculty advisor, the honors program director, and one additional faculty member who teaches in the program
- Application to begin in fall due in spring, typically of junior year. Complete two courses in the program
- Highly recommended for students who think that they might want to pursue a career in research
- More info: <http://www.economics.uci.edu/undergrad/honors.php>

- **UCI General Catalogue:**

<http://catalogue.uci.edu/>

- **Department of Economics homepage:**

<http://www.economics.uci.edu/>

- **Social Sciences Undergraduate Student Affairs:**

<http://www.undergrad.socsci.uci.edu/offices/studentaffairs.php>

A Final Piece of Advice

- Regardless of which major you choose, many of you will at some point need a reference for a job or a letter of recommendation for a graduate or law school application.
- It is your responsibility to build relationships with faculty *before* you need such references and letters.
- Make an effort to build relationships with around four or five faculty on campus. Go to office hours, ask questions after class, share interesting (but relevant!) news articles with them.

My Contact Information

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