



Economics at Swarthmore

I'm Steve O'Connell, Chair of the Economics Department at Swarthmore, and this is a **3-minute intro to Economics at Swarthmore**, for first-year students and transfer students.

Welcome to Swarthmore – on behalf of my department, we're looking forward to meeting you.

1/ Why study Economics?

- **First, to understand how your world works (and doesn't).**

We think majors and non-majors both need this basic grounding, and so that's how we teach our intro course, Ec 1.

1/ Why study Economics?

- **Next, to enrich and partner with other disciplines.**

Swarthmore students often combine a major in Economics with a major or minor in Political Science, Math, Black Studies, or many other departments and interdisciplinary programs.

We don't offer a course minor in Economics, but a course major is only 8 credits.

1/ Why study Economics?

- **Next, of course, to do economics.**

Your way to change the world. You may be captivated by the questions economists ask and/or the research methods economists use.

- **and finally, lots of students want to use economics.**

Lots of careers rely on economic thinking, including public policy, academia, finance, social or business entrepreneurship, and law.

2/ Let's talk about getting started in Economics

- **At Swarthmore, everything starts with Ec 1.**

This course (ECON 001) is offered fall, J term, and spring.

It's meant for both majors and non-majors.

And it's **required** for all other work in Economics.

You can waive the Ec 1 requirement if you have 5's on your Economics AP exams or high marks on international exams.

2/ Getting started in Economics

- **The course major is straightforward.**

8 courses: 4 core courses (including Ec 1) and 4 electives.

As a prospective major: Start with Ec 1 your first year, add an elective if you can, and complete the three other core courses by the end of your sophomore year.

2/ Getting started in Economics

- **For more info, check out the Department's web page**

There's a special section on registering for **Fall 2020 and J Term**.

And lots of other details about doing Economics at Swarthmore (including the exact rules for waiving the Ec 1 requirement).

3/ For transfer students

- **If you're considering an Economics major**, please be in touch with your economics advisor during advising period (that will probably be me!).
- We talk about your interests, look at the courses you already have, and find you a clear pathway through the major.

4/ Finally: Getting in touch with the department

- I'm looking forward to talking with you at the **all-remote Academic Fair on Monday August 24**.
- I'm also available by email (soconne1@swarthmore.edu).
- Also, feel free to email our Administrative Assistant, Megan Salladino (msallad1@Swarthmore.edu) with any questions.



All good wishes, and welcome to Swarthmore!