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.
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.
• 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.
• 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!