



**Sophomore planning for economics
majors (& honors minors)**

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I'm Steve O'Connell, Chair of the Economics Department at Swarthmore, and this is a **quick summary of the Sophomore Planning process** for potential majors and honors minors.

Welcome to the department.

We're looking forward to working with you.

1/ Major requirements are straightforward

- **A course major in economics**

a doorway to lots of destinations

- **To be admitted as a course major:**

- At least 2 credits in economics at Swarthmore, with a B or better in at least one (shadow grades count for this, and we treat a CR in spring 2020 as B or better).
- No D's or NC's in economics courses (you'll have to re-take those to be admitted).

- **To complete the course major:**

- 4 core requirements (Ec 1, Ec 11, Ec 21, Ec 31 or equivalent).
- Plus 4 credits of electives, which can include honors seminars.
- Culminates in “the Comps” (3-hour exam on Ec 11, 21 and 31), senior spring.

1/ Major requirements are straightforward

- **An honors major in economics**

intensive, exciting, collaborative

- **To be accepted as an honors major:**

- The same requirements as for the course major, plus a B or better average in all economics courses, including shadow grades.

- **To complete the honors major:**

- The same 4 core requirements.
- Plus 3 honors seminars in economics (typically 2-credit preparations).
- Must be paired with an honors minor (one seminar) in another discipline.
- Culminates in 4 external exams, one for each seminar, senior spring.

2/ We offer an honors minor

- **An option for honors majors in all disciplines**

a deep dive into one area of economics

- **To be admitted as an honors minor in economics:**

- The same requirements as for the course major, plus a B or better average in all economics courses, including shadow grades.

- **To complete the honors minor**

- Complete Ec 1 and one honors seminar in economics (including its prerequisites).
- Most honors minors take at least 4-5 total credits in economics including the seminar.
- Honors minors take external exams in each seminar, senior spring.

3/ A sophomore plan has three simple pieces

- **What personal interests and goals motivate your academic plan?**
 - Two sentences should do it.
- **What is the basic structure of your plan?**
 - A sentence or two on each of the big decisions:
 - What major(s) and minor(s) will you complete?
 - Will you elect the honors program? Why or why not?
 - Will you go on foreign study? Why or why not?
- **Work it out: What courses and seminars will you take?**
 - Your best detailed guesses. Make sure they satisfy all graduation requirements.
 - Indicate the economics seminars you want to take & when, so that we can put you on the list. Honors students have absolute priority, but course majors get admitted to honors seminars all the time.

4/ Other goals can complement or inform your plan

- **Summer research in economics**

- Topics and activities vary widely, almost always with an empirical dimension.
- Willingness/desire to learn new skills.
- Ec 31 or its equivalent often required.

- **Summer employment or internships in related fields**

- Finance: consider Ec 33 and Ec 22.
- Be aware of the 2-credit rule for business electives!

- **The job title *Economist* is a PhD qualification**

- In academia, private business, or public policy.
- This is do-able if you want it! Speak with your dep't advisor about keeping that door open.

5/ For more information:

- Check out the Department's web page
- Talk to your advisor in the department.
- I'm available by email (soconne1@swarthmore.edu).
- Feel free to email our Administrative Assistant, Megan Salladino (msallad1@Swarthmore.edu) with any questions.

