



# Bachelor of Arts, Economics

## **Studying Economics at the University of Denver (DU)**

These are interesting times in which to be studying economics! Today college students have found themselves to be living in a rather turbulent global economic landscape, to say the least. Politicians, policy-makers, the electorate, and even the economics profession to some extent, often have trouble agreeing on what to do to stabilize and sustain growth and development.

The Department of Economics at DU is in the Division of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Our students seek to understand how the social apparatus which governs the production and distribution of goods and services works. They inquire into the causes of the process of economic growth and development, and examine its social impact. They study topics such as the availability and consequences of government policy alternatives, the relation of the financial markets to the economy, the impact of the increasing globalization of economic activities, and the interaction of the economy with both the natural and the social environment. They also study how economic theories have been developed over time to address these various topics.

## **Uniqueness of DU's Economics Program**

Our faculty have a somewhat broader view of what the discipline is about than is found in the average Economics program in the U.S. We present alternative perspectives on the historical and present-day relevance of our material. We regard the economy as one element of a complex society, so that to understand the aspects of society pertaining to Economics, students should understand something about the other elements as well. Our curricula encourage students not to take in received knowledge as the truth, but to examine it and question it.

One benefit that our approach offers is that it decreases the 'dryness' of Economics that is often experienced by students and that it lends itself quite readily to emphasizing the importance of writing. Indeed, the Department prides itself on the fact that we emphasize written assignments and critical thinking in our assessment of student performance in addition to the ability to conduct quantitative analysis. We also believe that our use of primary sources and greater reading assignments than one finds in the typical U.S. Economics curriculum are of significant benefits to our students.

## **What Can an Economics Major Allow You to Do?**

The study of Economics provides students with the knowledge required to be a strong citizen-participant in economic affairs. Economics majors are prepared for a wide variety of careers in

government, business, finance, politics, and education. It is also an ideal major for those who plan to pursue higher degrees in Law, Business, International Studies, and in Economics. Indeed, the kinds of writing and quantitative skills that a student can acquire in our program can prove to be very valuable to a graduate, no matter what road he or she may follow.

**Major Requirements** (each course is 4 credit hours)

Required Courses: 24 hours

*Introductory level* (2 courses): 8 hrs.  
ECON 1020: Micro- & Macro-Economics I  
ECON 1030: Micro- & Macro-Economics II

*Intermediate level* (4 courses): 16 hrs.  
ECON 2020: Intermediate Microeconomics  
ECON 2030: Intermediate Macroeconomics  
ECON 2050: History of Economic Thought  
ECON 2670: Quantitative Methods in Economics

Elective Courses (5 upper-division, i.e. 2000- or 3000-level, courses)\*: 20 hours

\*At least one of these must be at the 3000-level.

**TOTAL ECONOMICS CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED: 44 hours<sup>†</sup>**

<sup>†</sup>Students who want to pursue Departmental Distinction in Economics have to write an Honors' Thesis and fulfill additional requirements. They should meet with the Department Chair to find out the details.

ECON 1020<sup>1</sup> and ECON 1030<sup>2</sup> are pre-requisites for most of the upper-division Economics courses. Any student who plans to take some Economics courses while studying abroad should complete both ECON 1020 and ECON 1030 at DU prior to traveling abroad. Transfer students who have received credit at other schools for introductory Economics (equivalent to ECON 1020 and ECON 1030) can take any courses for which ECON 1030 is listed as a pre-requisite. Students who have received credit that is equivalent to just one of these two courses would take the other one. (\*The Economics faculty representative at Discoveries' Major Advising session or the Economics Department Chair thereafter can grant credit for particular DU Economics courses if they can see the documentation of the transfer or advanced placement credit that DU has approved for you and a description of the Economics courses that you have taken.)

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<sup>1</sup> This course presents an introductory analysis of how the economic aspects of our society operate. It offers a brief examination of the historical development of economic arrangements and how these gave rise to the kind of economy that we have today. Students learn about the ideas of some of the great economists to interpret such historical development, and seek to understand the operation of markets, economic competition, and the workings of the national economy as a whole. The course is concerned with explaining such matters as the rates of unemployment and price inflation, along with a study of the monetary and some of the international aspects of the economy, as well as the promises and problems of government policy in affecting macroeconomic outcomes.

<sup>2</sup> This course builds on ECON 1020 to develop an understanding of the nature of economic behavior, and how this behavior shapes and determines economic outcomes. It presents the details of the economic theory of what determines demand, costs, and prices. It studies the determination of market equilibria and income distribution under different types of competitive structure. It studies how markets and economies perform, examines the institutional and regulatory frameworks behind markets, and the role of government in market processes and outcomes.

The four required courses at the intermediate level for all Economics majors are ECON 2020, ECON 2030, ECON 2050, and ECON 2670.<sup>3</sup> Economics majors who plan to study abroad should, in addition to having completed ECON 1020 and ECON 1030, complete as many of these intermediate-level requirements as possible prior to studying abroad. All Economics majors are strongly encouraged to complete the intermediate-level requirements, especially ECON 2020 and ECON 2030, prior to taking any Economics electives.

Upper-division elective courses are offered in the areas of Money and Financial Economics, International Economics, Development Economics, Industrial Organization, Economics of Technology, Environmental Economics, Health Economics, Urban Economics, Labor Economics, Gender Economics, Econometrics, Mathematics for Economists, and Economic History.

If you just want to minor in Economics, then you must take ECON 1020, ECON 1030, and either ECON 2020 or ECON 2030, and then two ECON-elective courses at any level.

### **Our Faculty and Staff**

**Paula Cole**, Teaching Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Colorado State University)

Fields: Labor Economics, Economics of Gender

Telephone: 303.871.2260

E-mail: [Paula.Cole@du.edu](mailto:Paula.Cole@du.edu)

**Peter Sai-wing Ho**, Associate Professor and Department Chair (Ph.D., Stanford University)

Fields: Development Economics, International Economics

Telephone: 303.871.2259

E-mail: [Peter.Ho@du.edu](mailto:Peter.Ho@du.edu)

**Juan Carlos Lopez**, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of California – Riverside)

Fields: Urban Economics, Public Economics, Water Resources and Cities, International Trade and Cultural Economics

Telephone: 303.871.2005

E-mail: [Juancarlos.lopez@du.edu](mailto:Juancarlos.lopez@du.edu)

**Tracy Mott**, Professor (Ph.D., Stanford University)

Fields: Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics, History of Economic Thought, Philosophy of Economics, Alternative Theories of Value and Distribution

Telephone: 303.871.2569

E-mail: [Tracy.Mott@du.edu](mailto:Tracy.Mott@du.edu)

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<sup>3</sup> These courses are designed to give an Economics major the necessary level of knowledge of economic theory, the development of economic ideas, and the use of quantitative methods in Economics to be able to analyze the economic issues covered in whichever of our upper-division field courses a student chooses.

**Christine Ngoc Ngo**, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; J.D., University of California Hastings College of the Law)

Fields: Political Economy of Economic Development, International Economics, Technological Change and Economic Growth

Telephone: 303.871.2151

E-mail: [Christine.Ngo@du.edu](mailto:Christine.Ngo@du.edu)

**Chiara Piovani**, Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Utah)

Fields: Environmental Economics, Chinese Economy, and Political Economy

Telephone: 303.871.4259

E-mail: [Chiara.Piovani@du.edu](mailto:Chiara.Piovani@du.edu)

**Markus Schneider**, Associate Professor (Ph.D., New School for Social Research)

Fields: Microeconomics, Econometrics

Telephone: 303.871.2146

E-mail: [Markus.Schneider@du.edu](mailto:Markus.Schneider@du.edu)

**Henning Schwardt**, Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Bremen, Germany)

Fields: Institutional Economics, Development Economics, Development Economics, Complexity Economics

Telephone: 303-817-2056

E-mail: [Henning.Schwardt@du.edu](mailto:Henning.Schwardt@du.edu)

**Robert Urquhart**, Associate Professor (Ph.D., New School for Social Research)

Fields: History of Economic Thought, Economic History, Political Economy

Telephone: 303.871.2258

E-mail: [Robert.Urquhart@du.edu](mailto:Robert.Urquhart@du.edu)

**Yavuz Yaşar**, Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Utah)

Fields: Political Economy, Health Economics, Macroeconomics and Money, Industrial Organization

Telephone: 303.871.2244

E-mail: [Yavuz.Yasar@du.edu](mailto:Yavuz.Yasar@du.edu)

**Betty Sims**, Program Coordinator

Telephone: 303.871.2243

E-mail: [Betty.Sims@du.edu](mailto:Betty.Sims@du.edu)

**Jennifer Foxcroft**, Assistant to the Chairs

Telephone: 303.871.2677

E-mail: [Jennifer.Foxcroft@du.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Foxcroft@du.edu)