

Carleton University

Department
of
Economics

B.A. General in Economics



2016–2017

OVERVIEW

The B.A. General program in Economics is normally completed in three years of full-time study and includes roughly half of the core intermediate-level requirements of our Honours programs, thereby making it relatively easy for students to switch between the two. This program is for students who do not necessarily want to pursue an extensive undergraduate education in economics.

To remain in good standing and ultimately graduate, students must maintain a minimum major CGPA determined by 7.0 required credits in Economics and a minimum overall CGPA. See Section 7.4 (Table 1 in particular) of the “Academic Regulations of the University” part of the Undergraduate Calendar for details.

Recommended First Year

ECON 1000 – Introduction to Economics

MATH / ECON 1401 – Elementary Mathematics for Economics I (students may take this course in the Winter term *or* in the following Summer term)

3.5 credits in a highly varied set of electives among which the following courses are recommended *but not required*:

COMP 1005 – Introduction to Computer Science I
FYSM 1608 *or* FYSM 1908 [0.5] – Selected Topics in [Applied] Economics (one of a number of different sections described at carleton.ca/first-year-seminars)

Recommended Second Year

MATH / ECON 1402 – Elementary Mathematics for Economics II
ECON 2020 – Intermediate Microeconomics I
ECON 2102 – Intermediate Macroeconomics I
ECON 2201 – Statistical Methods in Economics and Business I

One two-term elective (1.0 credit) or two one-term electives, including PHIL 2001 – Introduction to Logic (recommended but *not required*)

2.0 credits in Economics at the 3000 level *

Recommended Third Year

5.0 credits in electives including sufficient credits in Economics at the 3000 and/or 4000 level to bring the total of such electives to 2.0 credits *

* Students are strongly encouraged to consider substituting one or more of the following courses (which are required for Honours, but *not* for the General program):
ECON 2030 – Intermediate Microeconomics II
ECON 2103 – Intermediate Macroeconomics II
ECON 2202 – Statistical Methods in Economics and Business II
ECON 2400 – Mathematical Methods of Economics (note that this course is required for regular Honours, but not for the Applied Honours program)

Why should General Economics students consider switching to Honours?

General or three-year Bachelor’s programs were conceived at a time when Ontario had a five-year high school program while all other Canadian provinces (and U.S. states) had four-year programs. The idea was that five years of high school plus three years of undergraduate education in Ontario could be considered equivalent to four years of high school plus four years of undergraduate education elsewhere. Since Ontario dropped its fifth year of high school (Grade 13) in 2003, the rationale for the General B.A. has evaporated. In response, several Ontario universities moved to eliminate their three-year B.A. programs and employers with needs in economics began to demonstrate a stronger preference for hiring Honours graduates—a trend that has persisted and is very likely to continue to persist into the future.

TRANSFERRING TO B.A. HONOURS

It is possible for a General Economics student to transfer to Honours in Economics or Applied Economics since the recommended course patterns are similar up to the third year. To transfer, it is necessary to obtain the minimum major and overall CGPAs for Honours programs stated in Table 1 of Section 7.4 of the “Academic Regulations of the University” part of the Undergraduate Calendar. The student must also submit a “Change of Program Elements” request in Carleton Central.

ADDING A MINOR

A student may pursue a minor in an area of specialization that complements or supplements their major.

Minors sponsored by units offering B.A. General and B.A. Honours degrees normally consist of 4.0 credits. Of those 4.0 credits, up to 2.0 credits may be counted towards both a major and a minor.

Students may declare a minor at any point in their undergraduate career, so long as they meet the stated entrance requirements for the minor. Since entry may be competitive, application deadlines should be followed closely.

The unit offering a particular minor is the primary source of academic advice for students about specific minor requirements.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHIL 2001 – Introduction to Logic

An introduction to the techniques and philosophical implications of formal logic with emphasis on translation of expressions into symbolic form, testing for logical correctness, the formulation and application of rules of inference, and the relation between logic and language. Open to first-year students.

COMP 1005 – Introduction to Computer Science I

A first course in programming, emphasizing problem solving and computational thinking. Topics include pseudocode, variables, conditionals, iteration, arrays, objects, functions, sorting, searching, and simulation.

FYSM 1608 – Selected Topics in Economics

Content of this course may vary from year to year (and section by section) and will be announced in advance of the registration period by the Department of Economics.

Prerequisite: normally restricted to students entering the first year of a B.A. program.

ECON 1000 – Introduction to Economics

An introduction to the major tools and policy problems of economics. Economic analysis is applied to a variety of contemporary problems such as pollution, poverty, the control of monopoly, unemployment, inflation and international economic problems.

Precludes additional credit for FYSM 1003—i.e., students cannot obtain credit for both ECON 1000 and FYSM 1003.

ECON 2020 – Intermediate Microeconomics I: Producers and Market Structure

Theory of the firm: elements of production and cost; input allocation, pricing, and firm behaviour under perfectly and imperfectly competitive market structures; the role of information; game theory and public policy, including basic competition policy.

Prerequisites: ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003 with a grade of C- or higher; and ECON 1402 (or equivalent), which may be taken concurrently with ECON 2020.

ECON 2102 – Intermediate Macroeconomics I

An introduction to the macroeconomic modelling of output in the short and long run, and to fixed-price models of the closed and open economy over the business cycle. Policy prescriptions in relation to the business cycle are analysed.

Prerequisites: ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003 with a grade of C- or higher; and ECON 1402 (or equivalent), which may be taken concurrently with ECON 2102.

ECON 2201 – Statistical Methods in Economics and Business I

An introduction to statistical inference. Topics covered include descriptive statistics, probability theory, sampling distributions, estimation, and hypothesis testing with a single population.

Prerequisite: ECON 1402 (or equivalent), which may be taken concurrently with ECON 2201.

ECON 3405 – Introduction to Public Economics: Taxation

The role and nature of the government sector in the economy, principles of taxation, tax equity, incidence and excess burden of taxes, structure of taxes in the economy, role of personal, corporate, sales and wealth taxes, fiscal stabilization policy, and the economics of public debt.

Prerequisite: ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

... about economics at Carleton, please visit carleton.ca/economics

or write to the Economics Undergraduate Supervisor, Professor Simon Power, at simon.power@carleton.ca .