



ECONOMICS

There are many benefits to majoring in economics at IWU. First, economics provides students with analytical skills that are useful in a variety of settings. Because economics offers a way of thinking about the world that complements many other fields, it is not surprising to find many Wesleyan students creating “double majors” with economics and business administration, political science, mathematics, or a foreign language.

Second, economics has social relevance. Dealing with issues such as unemployment, poverty, economic development, and the quality of our environment, economics attracts students with an interest in understanding important economic problems and a desire to use what they learn to improve the human condition.

Third, as a student of economics, you develop critical-thinking and decision-making skills that will be valuable in your future professional life. You will find individuals using their undergraduate economics majors in all walks of life, including business, education, finance, social service, politics, and the law.

The economics program builds on a foundation of theoretical and applied courses, including basic and intermediate theory, calculus, and statistics. These core courses present analytical tools applied in a wide variety of elective topical courses: Environmental Economics, the Economics of Developing Countries, Money and Banking, International Finance, Urban Economics, and the Economics of Gender, Race, and Immigration. Finally, in the capstone Senior Project, you bring all this background to bear in an original research project.

LEARNING FROM A DEDICATED FACULTY

The Department of Economics has a dedicated faculty who enjoy teaching and working with students one-on-one. Our faculty are able to combine their original research with their teaching, so they can share their learning with you. They also sponsor meaningful extra-curricular activities such as an

economics club (The Economics Society), a national economics honorary (Omicron Delta Epsilon), a unique undergraduate journal (*The Park Place Economist*), and an on-line journal (*The Undergraduate Economic Review*).

We have six regular, full-time economics professors, including the following.

- ▶ **Dr. Margaret Chapman**, co-author of an important book on the impact of Japanese automobile firms in the U.S., teaches a variety of courses, including Urban Economics, Money and Banking, and the History of Economic Thought.
- ▶ **Dr. Robert Leekley**, whose research is in public economics, is currently writing a textbook in Statistics. In addition to Statistics, he teaches Microeconomics and Econometrics.
- ▶ **Dr. Diego Méndez-Carbajo** works on European and Latin American open-economy macroeconomics. His current work focuses on inflation dynamics and economic integration. He teaches Intermediate Macroeconomics and International Finance.
- ▶ **Dr. Ilaria Ossella-Durba**’s current research explores the effects of productivity enhancement and international trade on economic growth. She teaches Statistics, the Economics of Developing Countries, and International Trade.
- ▶ **Dr. Michael Seeborg**, author of numerous articles on the economic problems of disadvantaged groups, teaches Labor Economics and The Economics of Gender, Race, and Immigration. He is a winner of a university-wide award for teaching excellence.

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"I am proud to be a part of the Economics program here at Illinois Wesleyan. The faculty enjoy teaching, both in class and one-on-one. We have the range of expertise to offer courses on a wide variety of interesting topics. We involve students in our research, and support them in their own. And we sponsor activities that enhance learning outside of class.

I am proud of our students. Most come in knowing little or no economics. But they learn fast, from the faculty, and from each other. They see what students just a little older are doing, and are emboldened to do likewise. By senior year they too are organizing field trips, doing internships, editing their own volume of *The Park Place Economist*, or presenting their own original research.

I am also proud of our alumni. They have gone on to succeed in all manner of graduate programs, including economics, environmental policy, labor and human resources, urban planning, business administration, and law. Their ranks include teachers, scholars, public policy makers, attorneys, corporate executives and business entrepreneurs. They have spread out all over the country, and the world. And they remain our friends."

Dr. Robert M. Leekley

Chair, Department of Economics

PUTTING YOUR LEARNING INTO PRACTICE

As an economics major at Illinois Wesleyan, you have the opportunity to participate in a variety of learning experiences outside as well as inside the classroom.

A special feature of the department is the large number of students who work one-on-one with faculty in various types of collaborative research. Upper-division students have the opportunity to develop independent study projects on topics of special interest to themselves. Seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence form faculty committees, and participate in the university's Research Honors Program. And the department hires a few of our top students every year to work with individual faculty on their research projects.

We also have a student run club, The Economics Society, that hosts discussions, brings speakers to campus, and publishes a unique economics journal, *The Park Place Economist*. You learn outside of the classroom as a participant in these activities and, if you choose, develop leadership skills as a club officer or member of the journal's editorial board.

Many economics students also enrich their education by participating in off-campus programs. An internship is an excellent way to experience first-hand how economic principles are applied in business and government enterprises. Travel courses from across the university can give you a first-hand view of the ways that people live and organize their economies. And a semester or full year of study at a foreign university allows many of our students to immerse themselves in a foreign economy and culture.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL FUTURE

Graduates of the economics program pursue a variety of careers. About one-third continue study at the graduate level, with the most popular programs being in business (MBA), law (JD), and economics (MA and Ph.D.). Of those students who pursue employment directly after graduation, many take positions as business analysts, or in the financial services sector. Alumni of the economics program include business executives, consultants, financial analysts, bankers, bank examiners, university professors and attorneys.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the academic program and the faculty visit our website at:

<http://www2.iwu.edu/academics/departments>