

Economics

There are many benefits to majoring in economics at IWU.

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, including business, education, finance, social service, politics and law, it is not surprising to find many Illinois Wesleyan economics students pursuing a double major.

Why Economics at Illinois Wesleyan?

- 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.
- As a student of economics, you develop critical-thinking and decision-making skills that will be valuable in your future professional life. The economics program builds on a foundation of theoretical and applied courses, including Basic and Intermediate Theory, Statistics, Econometrics, and Time Series.
- 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.
- The *Mark Israel Research Fellowship* offers a unique research opportunity by funding an economics student each summer to conduct independent research in close collaboration with a member of the economics faculty. Through this opportunity, students are exposed to advanced research and gain hands-on experience in the discipline.
- The department sponsors meaningful co-curricular activities. Students have the opportunity to edit and publish two undergraduate journals, *The Park Place Economist*, a strictly Illinois Wesleyan publication, and *The Undergraduate Economic Review*, which accepts worldwide submissions. The Economics Society, our student-run club, fosters interaction between faculty and students, organizes social events, and hosts discussions on topics of interest. Moreover, the national economics honorary (Omicron Delta Epsilon) recognizes outstanding scholastic achievements..

Learning from a Quality Faculty

The Department of Economics has a dedicated faculty who enjoy teaching and working with students one-on-one. Our faculty is able to combine their original research with their teaching so they can share their learning with you.

- **Amit Ghosh**, *Associate Professor of Economics*
Ph.D. — Claremont Graduate University

He works on international economics and open-economy macroeconomics. His current ongoing research includes analyzing different implications of exchange rate regimes and studying different aspects of the banking industry. He teaches International Finance and Money and Banking.

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A Sampling of Courses Offered by Economics:

Applied Econometrics
Applied Financial Economics
Economics of Developing Countries
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Industrial Organization and Public Policy
International Finance
International Trade
Introduction to International Economics
Labor Economics
Mathematical Economics
Money and Banking
Public Finance
Statistics for Business and Economics
Time Series Analysis

Recent May Term Courses Related to Economics:

Game Theory Goes to the Movies
Seminar in Applied Research in Labor Economics



“ In addition to providing students with a solid foundation in economic theory and quantitative techniques, the economics program at Illinois Wesleyan encour-

ages the development of a way of thinking that enables our students to excel in a wide variety of career paths. Our curriculum emphasizes both theoretical modelling and empirical analysis, culminating in a capstone experience in which our majors conduct original research under our guidance. Our students graduate with the ability to think abstractly, analyze and work with data, evaluate complex situations objectively, formulate solutions to problems, and communicate effectively. Moreover, the economics faculty enjoys working closely with students, both in and out of the classroom, and we are wholeheartedly committed to their success.”

- **Robert Leekley**, *Associate Professor of Economics*
Ph.D. — Michigan State University

He is the author of a textbook in statistics. His research generally relates to public economics and education. In addition to Statistics, he teaches Public Finance and Applied Econometrics.

- **Diego Méndez-Carbajo**, *Associate Professor of Economics*
Ph.D. — Florida International University

His research is in the area of applied economics. He has published articles on topics ranging from the inflation dynamics in the periphery of the Euro-zone to the impact of business cycles on the public funding of the Arts in the United Kingdom. He teaches courses on Macroeconomic topics at all levels of the curriculum.

- **Ilaria Ossella-Durbal**, *Chair and Associate Professor of Economics*
Ph.D. — Cornell University

Her research is in the area of development economics. Currently she is investigating the inroads, or lack thereof, that countries have made in implementing policies to address their economic development. She teaches Statistics, the Economics of Developing Countries, International Trade, and Industrial Organization.

- **Michael Seeborg**, *Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics*
Ph.D. — University of Utah

He is the author of numerous articles on labor economics topics and pedagogy and teaches Labor Economics and Senior Project. He is a winner of a University-wide award for teaching excellence.

Putting Learning into Practice

- 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.), including programs at The University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University and Columbia University.
- 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. Recent alums are employed by Ernst & Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Allstate and Cutler Group, among others.
- 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. May Term travel courses give students 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.

Dr. Ilaria Ossella-Durbal

Associate Professor of Economics
and Department Chair



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

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