

Economics Minor at USF St. Petersburg

In general, picking up a minor may show potential employers that you're willing to do a little bit extra to get ahead. Picking up an Economics minor may show that you are capable of the type of logical analysis economists use. For pre-law students and those planning on getting an MBA, good exposure to this analysis is especially valuable.

What do you need for a minor in Economics? First, you should look at the catalogue or talk to your advisor to be sure you've got complete and up-to-date information (that's the disclaimer portion of this note). But basically, you need 18 hours (six courses) in Economics. If you are not in the College of Business (COB), this would include ECO 2013 and ECO 2023 (Principles of Macroeconomics and Microeconomics) and four upper-division Economics courses. If you are a COB student, you already have to take ECO 2013, ECO 2023, and QMB 3200 (which counts as an Econ course for the minor). That means you have just three more upper-division Economics courses to take. For both COB and non-COB students, exit requirement courses from Economics can double-count toward your minor, too.

How should your minor be set up? What courses should you include? It depends on your interests and plans. Each of the upper-division courses we regularly offer has something that might be valuable to an Economics minor. Here are our nine regularly-offered upper-division courses:

- 1. Intermediate Price Theory (ECO 3101)**
- 2. Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECO 3203)**
- 3. International Economics (ECO 3703)**
- 4. International Macroeconomics (ECO 4713)**
- 5. International Trade and Policy (ECO 4723)**
- 6. Economics of Latin America (ECP 4430)**
- 7. Public Finance (ECO 4504)**
- 8. Economics of Health (ECP 3530)**
- 9. Environmental Economics (ECP 3302)**

The analysis and logic used in courses #1 and #2 on the list, especially #1, are particularly useful for pre-law and pre-MBA students. Such students are advised to take #1 and, if possible, #2, and choose the other courses to fit their interests and goals.

The next four courses are all on the international side, important for those with an international interest or who might work in that growing field. Non-COB students can satisfy the entire upper-division minor requirement with these courses. Some COB students use these courses for both the International Business and the Econ minors. In the COB, courses can double-count for two minors (i.e. students can get 2 minors for the "price" of 1). This double-counting, and getting the IB minor, is more complicated for non-COB students (ask your advisor for details). For ECO 4713 and 4723, and for ECP 3530 below, the prerequisites are different from those shown in the catalogue (ask your advisor, or watch this website, for details).

The last four courses listed above are particularly important for the job market. Given that a large proportion of Florida's international trade is with Latin America, knowing something about these growing economies is very important in many industries (ECP 4430). Also, because of the government's significant role in all economic activity, particularly health care, which is also a key industry of Florida, ECO 4504 and ECP 3530 may give you a leg up in job interviews, in addition to making you a more informed citizen and taxpayer. Finally, Environmental Economics (ECP 3302) is important not only for ESP majors, but is also increasingly important as the public becomes more environmentally conscious. This subject matters more and more in both the business and governmental job markets.

A very efficient way to pick up the Economics minor is to use the General Education requirements. The 2000-level Economics courses satisfy the Social Sciences requirement, while #3, #6, and #9 all satisfy the Major Works/Major Issues exit requirements. In addition, #6 also satisfies the ALAMEA requirement. If you want the quickest and cheapest minor, this might be the way to go.

If you have any questions about any of these courses or the Economics major or minor, feel free to contact Dr. Rick Smith, Economics Coordinator (smithrb@mail.usf.edu, 873-4943).