

Overview of the Bryn Mawr Economics curriculum

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Bryn Mawr's economics curriculum provides students with a strong grounding in economic theory and methods through the core courses, and allows them to tailor their major to their specific interests in advanced theory and/or field courses. It emphasizes analytical rigor, the use and interpretation of statistical and empirical evidence, and original, independent research. The curriculum helps students master the methods used by economists to analyze economic issues and assess alternative economic arguments and policies. The economics major provides a pathway to a wide range of careers in business, consulting, government, law, public policy, non-profits and NGOs, banking and financial services, and academics.

Introductory course

Econ B105 Introduction to Economics is a one-semester course that introduces the principles of economic theory and shows how they can inform decisions about the allocation of resources and a variety of public policy issues. It requires math readiness and does not assume any prior coursework in economics.

Core required courses The three core courses may be taken in any order and should be taken at Bryn Mawr. Each is offered once a year.

Intermediate theory courses The core theory courses in economics are Econ B200 Intermediate Microeconomics and Econ B202 Intermediate Macroeconomics. Both these courses require Math 101 or the equivalent of one semester of college-level calculus, as well as Econ B105 and one 200-level economics elective as prerequisites.

Statistical and econometric methods Econ B253 Introduction to Econometrics introduces students to the statistical and econometric methods most frequently used in economics. It has Econ B105 and a 200-level elective as prerequisites.

Elective topics courses

A number of electives—courses that apply economic theory and tools to particular topics such as development, labor markets, globalization, environmental economics, and the economics of the government sector, as well as advanced theory and econometric courses—are offered at the 200- and 300-levels. The prerequisites for these courses vary; for 200-level courses they typically consist of Econ B105 and for 300-level electives they typically consist of Econ B253 along with Econ B200 and/or Econ B202.

Other required courses

Writing-intensive (WI) courses in economics These 300-level electives are semester-long courses designed around specific economic topics. In them, majors develop discipline-specific writing and research skills while studying the economic topics that are the focus of the course. They help prepare students to undertake their own economics research in the senior research seminars. These WI electives require Econ B253 or 304, Econ B200 and/or Econ B202. Majors must complete at least one writing-intensive course in economics. A WI course should be taken before the senior research seminar. These courses are offered at Bryn Mawr only.

Research seminar Majors write a senior thesis as part of a semester-long senior research seminar. Students select a specific seminar based on previous coursework and interests. In the seminar, students conduct original and independent economics research under the supervision of an economics faculty member.

Students planning to study away will need to consult with the department chair about how to fulfill all the requirements and whether credit will be given for any courses taken in programs abroad.