What is Economics?
Economics is a study of people in the ordinary business of life; it examines that part of individual and social action which is most closely connected with the attainment and with the use of the material requirements for wellbeing. Thus it is on one side a study of material wealth; and on the other, and more important side, a part of the study of people. The Department of Economics believes that understanding economics requires both learning economic theory and applying that theory. To this end, the department encourages internships, student/faculty collaborative research activities, small-group learning, and applied projects.

To aid our graduates in the transition to employment or further education, the department sponsors trips to area graduate schools and visits by individuals employed in economics-related occupations and it maintains a file of alumni mentors.

Honor Societies and Student Organizations
Omicron Delta Epsilon (Economics Honors Society) and Student Economics Association.
For more information on either organization, see the Department Chair.
Departmental Honors Program in Economics

Entrance Requirements:
1. Majors who have completed at least the two introductory economics courses with a GPA in economics courses of 3.50 or higher, and resident and total GPAs of 3.35 or higher,
2. and submit a written application before the beginning of the senior year for approval by the Economics Department faculty.
3. Requirements for Continued Participation: If at any time a student’s resident and total GPAs fall below 3.35, or a student’s GPA in economics courses falls below 3.20, that student will no longer be eligible to participate in the program.

Graduation Requirements:
1. Complete the requirements for an economics major, including ECON 316.
2. Complete at least six credits in the department’s Honors Seminars taught by graduate faculty. If unable to schedule six credits of seminar, the student can petition the department to replace three credits of Honors Seminar with three credits of Honors Independent Study.
3. Satisfactory completion of an Honors paper under the direction of a department member of the graduate faculty.
4. Satisfactory completion of an oral examination, conducted by at least three faculty members, on economic theory (ECON 303 and ECON 304) and on the student’s Honors Paper.
5. Resident and total GPAs of 3.50 or higher at graduation for all courses and in Economics Department courses. For more information, see the Department Chair.