Economics

Opening the door to dollars and sense

Economists work at the forefront of many vital current issues: how to combat poverty and unemployment, how to provide adequate health care, how to protect the environment, even how to reduce crime, reform education, and fight terrorism. Economics is more than a body of knowledge; it is a way of thinking. As a vice president of a multibillion-dollar corporation once put it: “Economics teaches us to confront problems, to size them up and to wrestle with creative solutions. And that is what firms hire you to do.”

The Program
Economics students may pursue two different degrees at Winthrop University. Those choosing the economics concentration within the Bachelor of Science in business administration will complete a comprehensive set of core business courses in addition to courses in economics. Those selecting a Bachelor of Arts in economics will supplement their economics classes with a minor of their choice and a series of free electives consistent with their interests and career goals.

During the first two years, students concentrate on a broad liberal arts education. In their junior and senior years, students will complete courses in the major and either business core courses for those in the B. S. program, or courses in their minor and electives for those pursuing the B.A. degree.

Faculty
Students in economics can depend upon a strong group of faculty members to guide and interact with them. All economics faculty members hold Ph.D.s in economics, are actively engaged in professional research and are united in a common mission to provide the best possible undergraduate education.

Students also will experience award-winning classroom instruction. Each of our five full-time faculty members has won college and/or university-wide awards for the quality of their teaching. It is unlikely that any other economics department in the U.S. can boast of such a record.

We have a faculty that wants to get to know students and help them succeed, both at Winthrop and after graduation. Each of our faculty members spends many hours working with students outside of the classroom. Some of the interaction involves academic and career advisement, but much involves informal conversations that cross almost every conceivable topic. Come and talk.

Careers
Because of their broad, analytical skills, quantitative background, and clarity and precision of expression, students majoring in economics are highly sought after in many occupations.

Within the private sector graduates pursue such varied careers as financial consultants, pricing specialists, market researchers, bank officers, insurance underwriters and managers for both corporate and non-profit enterprises. They also find many opportunities in government agencies providing research and helping to develop and implement policy recommendations. Many CEO’s of major corporations majored in economics. So did Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Not only do students majoring in economics enjoy well-above-average starting salaries, they tend to progress rapidly through their careers. In a recent survey that ranked mid-career earnings by college major, economics placed close to very top. Salaries for students graduating in economics fell slightly below those from aerospace, chemical, computer, and electrical engineering, but ahead of other engineering fields and ahead of all other business, science, or liberal arts majors.
Graduate Programs
Graduates pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees find even more opportunities and hold important leadership positions throughout business, government and academia. Graduate programs in economics will be especially attractive to undergraduates with strong backgrounds in mathematics and statistics, but many other programs also are available. Economics majors score exceptionally well on admission exams for law school and graduate programs in business. They also are very successful in graduate programs for public policy, public administration, and industrial relations.

Academic Opportunities
Students will have many academic opportunities in addition to those offered by traditional courses. Majors can take advantage of exchange programs both within the U.S. and abroad, internships, honors courses, and independent research under the direction of faculty members. The College of Business Administration also offers for-credit international field experience courses every year. Students in these courses recently have traveled to such countries as China, India, France and England.

Student Organizations
The Economics Club provides opportunities to interact with fellow students and faculty in a variety of settings. The Club offers informal social events and sponsors programs that complement students’ classroom experiences in the field. Omicron Delta Epsilon, the national honor society for economics, is available to high-achieving students.

Facilities
In Thurmond Building students have access to a variety of computer labs, state-of-the-art multimedia classrooms, a student resource room with tutoring services, and a presentation seminar room. In addition, the adjacent, Vivian Moore Carroll Hall contains the Carroll Capital Markets Training and Trading Center with electronic stock market ticker tape and a nine-panel video display of current global market data. It also has a 220-seat auditorium with television monitors and adjoining conference room, instructional computer classrooms, a computer science lab and collaborative team learning rooms for students to work in small groups.

Accreditation
Both the B.A. and B.S. degrees are accredited by SACS - the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The B.S. degree program in business administration also is accredited by AACSBI International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.