



ECONOMICS



ekon.sun.ac.za

What is Economics?

Economic activity shapes both our individual lives and the societies we live in. Broadly speaking, economics is the study of how people, institutions, and governments make choices in a world of limited resources and competing needs. At its core, economics explores how we allocate scarce resources to meet our needs and aspirations. It helps us understand how markets work, how decisions are made, and how these decisions affect well-being.



Why Study Economics?

We are all part of the economy: as consumers, workers, producers, and citizens. Economics asks questions such as:

- "How do economic systems function"
- "How does South Africa's economy connect to the global economy?", and
- "What policies and choices can promote inclusive growth and improve living standards?"

By examining these questions, economic provides tools to better understand the world, and to shape it in more equitable and sustainable ways.

ECONOMICS Degree Programs



BCOM (ECON SCIENCES) FOCAL AREAS

Econometrics

This focal area is proposed for students with strong quantitative aptitudes. Emphasis is placed on advanced mathematics and statistics, giving students a strong foundation for employment as econometricians in the financial and public sectors, or at a research institution.

Financial Sector

This programme is best suited for a student wanting to seek employment in the financial sector, and places ongoing emphasis on mathematics and statistical skills, as well as skills required to analyse investment opportunities and the financial statements of companies.

Economic & Management Consultation

A good knowledge of Economics is combined with broad exposure to commercial and management subjects, providing the necessary background to be able to make business-related recommendations covering a broad spectrum of fields.

Transport Economics

Transport economists plan and manage transport infrastructure, the formulation of transport policy and the control of transport systems for public enterprises and transport organisations.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BCom (Economic Sciences) and BCom (Management Sciences)

Overall NSC or IEB average of at least 65% (excl. LO)

Mathematics 60%*

Home Language 50% OR FAL 70%

BCom (Economic Sciences) focal areas:

Econometrics

Economic and Management Consultation

Financial Sector

Transport Economics

*To register for the Econometrics and Financial Sector focal areas, you must have a Grade 12 Mathematics final mark of 70% or higher. This requirement also applies to the general Economic Sciences stream and BCom (Management Sciences) degree if you want to enrol for Actuarial Science 112.

BDatSci (focal area: Behavioural Economics)

Overall NSC or IEB average of at least 80% (excl. LO)

Mathematics 80%

Home Language 60% OR FAL 75%

BA (Political, Philosophical and Economic Studies) (PPE)

Overall NSC or IEB average of at least 63%, (excl. LO)

Mathematics 60%

Home Language 50%

Note that the EMS Faculty has minimum selection marks for applications.

The selection mark and minimum requirements are revised annually. See www.su.ac.za/ems for admission requirements.

BCOM FOCAL AREAS ECONOMIC MAJORS

Agricultural Economics

This is an interdisciplinary field that studies the application of economic and management sciences to the production and marketing of agricultural and food products. This qualification provides access to professional occupations in the growing domestic and international agricultural and food industries. Careers include entrepreneurship, general management, financial management and logistics management for the provision of agricultural inputs and services, for the processing and distribution of agricultural products, and for agricultural financing.

Investment Management

This focal area is specifically developed to enable students to study successfully for Level 1 of the examination for the international CFA® qualification, which focuses on portfolio management and investment analysis.

Public & Development Management

This focal area provides essential preparation for professions in the public, business and voluntary sectors. This focal area is also an option in BA degree programmes.

BCom (Financial Management)

This focal area is geared to employment in the private sector, where specialised knowledge of financial management and analysis is required. Career possibilities include financial director, financial advisor, and financial analyst.

BDATSCI

Behavioural Economics

Data scientists often work with data that capture aspects of human behaviour and reflect decisions made by investors, consumers, workers, politicians, companies and managers. Behavioural economics investigates how psychological and economic factors affect these decisions. This focal area will equip you with the skills, models and theories to understand, predict and influence human behaviour.

ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

BA (Philosophy, Political Science & Economics)

This degree will be attractive to students interested in formulating economic policy, and taking account of the implications of such policies for the political and ethical governance of the world. A PPE degree forms a sound foundation from which to seek a career in senior policy making (private or public sectors), as well as careers in international trade diplomacy, journalism, investment analysis, consultant, researcher or academic.

Where do
economics
graduates from
SU work?



Economics allows a wide choice of careers. Although some careers require postgraduate studies in economics and econometrics, experience has shown that undergraduate qualifications in Economics yield good returns for careers in the business world and the public sector. In business, microeconomics facilitates logical decision-making in the firm while macroeconomics provides insight into the economic environment within which the enterprise operates. Majoring in Economics may also improve the like-lihood of promotion in government departments. Economics also creates opportunities in teaching and is recommended for students who envisage a career in journalism.