

Internships & Research Opportunities

Students in the Economics program are involved in practical learning experiences on- and off-campus through internships, research projects and presentations. Students who demonstrate academic excellence also gain teaching experience by working as paid tutors.



Several students have received valuable training through internships at area businesses such as the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce and Gray Automotive Products Company. Few schools in the nation promote undergraduate student research as aggressively as Western. Students

may work with faculty on research projects during regular semesters and through individual and small groups summer research programs.

Working one-on-one with professors during summer research programs, students have researched the economics of distance education, foreign exchange rate movements and similar topics. A small group of students worked with a professor to compile a database of statistics describing the historical path of economic development as well as the current state of the St. Joseph economy.

Students also have the opportunity to present research findings at national and international conferences. For the past two years, a graduating senior in Economics was the only undergraduate student in the nation selected to present research findings at an international conference.



Alumni Views

“My academic program at Western gave me the knowledge and experience that has been beneficial in my career. The classes and extra-curricular activities at Western, such as Greek

life, gave me the opportunity to meet alumni guests and speakers at various campus events, attend career fairs, participate in mock interviews, and network with many people in the field of business.”

*Jessica Snyder, '05
Portfolio Administrator III, State Street Bank & Trust
Kansas City, Mo.*

“The education I received at Western gave me the necessary tools to become a successful individual in addition to a successful employee. The research, writing and communication skills that I learned as a student are very valuable to me. In my current position, I use those skills each and every day.”

*Nick Limle, '05
Marketing Projects Coordinator, Gray Automotive Products*

For more information

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Economics

Missouri Western State University





Economics Department

Do you want to understand the mysteries of how people and society work? Are you looking for a fun, exciting and flexible career? Economics is a social science that builds scientific models to explain why people behave

the way they do. It is defined as the study of how people choose to use their scarce resources in an attempt to satisfy their unlimited wants. Individuals with training in Economics become problem solvers.

In Western's Department of Economics, professors pride themselves on the relationships they develop with students. The department is small enough for all faculty members to get to know you and to take a keen interest in your education and career plan.

You will also become well acquainted with your fellow Economics majors through small class settings where discussion and informal interaction among students and professors are welcomed.

The Economics program at Western will provide you with a solid understanding of how the U.S. economy functions and what role it plays in the global economy. Both theoretical principles of economic analysis and practice in applying those principles to real world problems are emphasized. Students gain extensive

experience in economic reasoning, writing and quantitative analysis. In the process, they develop a clear understanding of the manner in which economists approach problems.

When students declare a major in Economics, they are assigned an advisor who will closely monitor their progress toward a degree. As students work toward their degree, they will begin to zero in on a particular area of interest, such as Environmental Economics or Money and Banking. At this point, many students choose to complete internships or work on independent research projects with professors to help further develop their specific field of interest.

The Economics major allows the student to acquire a solid foundation in the discipline of economics and still have time to pursue other academic areas of interest. Economics is complemented well by many other areas, such as foreign language, business, mathematics, history, government, and communication studies. An Economics minor provides an appropriate supplement to almost any major.

Because of the flexibility of the Economics degree, graduates are well prepared to enter careers in business, government or the nonprofit sector, and to continue



their education in graduate or law school. Graduates are trained to understand human behavior in relation to work, production, and consumption - the fundamental operation of most businesses.

Careers

Graduates with a degree in Economics are very marketable, and starting salaries for new graduates are among the highest of any fields. Recent graduates of Western's Economics program have found jobs at major regional employers such as Sprint and Commerce Bank, and have been accepted by prestigious graduate institutions such as the London School of Economics and the University of Kansas.

An Economics degree opens up a wide range of career opportunities. Economists can be found in banks, the Federal Reserve System, government agencies, insurance companies, consulting firms, public utilities, stock brokerages, law firms, trade/labor organizations, universities or research institutes.

Points of Pride

- **Graduates with a degree in Economics are very marketable, and starting salaries for new graduates are among the highest of any fields.**
- **A senior Economics student was the only undergraduate student in the nation chosen to present research findings at an international conference. This is the second year the department has had a student receive that honor.**
- **Professors are active professionally and in the community. One serves as a frequent consultant to businesses and academic institutions; another was recently named vice president of the American Association of Forensic Economists; others work with local organizations such as Heartland Health to address a variety of community concerns.**