

ECONOMICS AND LEGAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Undergraduate Program

WHY ECONOMICS?

As technologies change and the world shrinks, new careers continue to emerge requiring analytical ability and adaptability. With a major in economics, you will have a tremendous advantage because you will gain the skills to think through new and complex situations, and you will be equipped with the analytical tools required for high-quality research and application. If you choose to major in economics, you will be entering one of the highest-earning fields in the world.

In the Department of Economics and Legal Studies in Business in the Spears School of Business at OSU, you will be able to earn a degree in general economics, an economics degree with a pre-law option, or a degree with an applied business economics and quantitative studies option. Completion of this degree requires 120 hours of undergraduate course work.

Internships

Spears School encourages participation in internship opportunities prior to graduation to gain work experience, improve your competitiveness in the labor market, and discover through real world experience whether the career you are pursuing is a good fit. One of the best places you can find internships and begin interacting with employers is through the OSU Career Services website, hireosugrads.com.

Student organizations

The Economics Society is a club for all students intrigued by economic issues and the economic side of broad issues affecting our nation and the world. Join the only club on campus where marginal cost of participation always equals marginal benefit and enjoy food, fun and discussion! Phi Alpha Delta is OSU's pre-law student organization. The goal of the organization is to provide information about law school and the legal profession.

Study abroad/ travel programs

The Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School provides a number of short-term, study abroad and travel programs to expose you to different cultures, experiences, and business views. Courses within these programs are designed specifically for the setting within which the travel experience takes place and allow you to advance your academic and professional education.

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Victor Quirola



DECEMBER 2013 GRADUATE

Economics

Minor: Finance

Consulate of Ecuador in Washington, D.C.

Summer intern

Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as an intern.

The responsibilities as a summer intern in the consulate are to work closely with the Ecuadorian community in the U.S., Americans, and other diplomatic missions in the U.S. As a consulate we have the power to issue Ecuadorian documentation, such as passports, powers of attorney, visas, safe passages, etc. For this, I had to learn the international treaties that Ecuador has with other countries, and a little bit of law in order to understand what a consulate does.

What did your internship teach you about this career field?

It taught me that every economic decision made in the diplomatic world affects our daily lives. For example, we were promoting the extension of a duty-free access for all the exports that come to the U.S. from Ecuador, called ATPDEA. That means millions of jobs affected directly and indirectly for Ecuador and the U.S., if Congress does not pass this bill. This kind of economic decision made by policy makers could change the job market and the prices for goods. After this experience I will see my classes as more interesting than before because they are really relevant to the world.

What impacted your selection of this major?

Economics is a social science, and depending upon where you work, you could change the reality of a society with economic decisions. I chose this major for that reason. Because everything is related with economics I personally believe that the level of happiness is measured by the level of needs fulfilled. In this world, and especially in this country, those needs can be fulfilled with money.

What classes best prepared you for the job?

I would say any English or Speech courses would be very helpful; courses that make you write essays or do presentations/speeches. It can be overwhelming to talk in front of people you don't know or maybe in front of your boss, so the more practice you have, the better you will do in those situations. In my case economic courses gave me a background of knowledge very helpful for my position.

What about your academic program or training proved valuable in facilitating your career development or attainment of professional opportunities?

Learning to be responsible in college through participation in various activities might be the most important training I've received in college. Responsibility is something that you can develop little by little, and that might be a key to success in life. When I came to the U.S. I was a kid, never lived alone, and my parents did everything for me; that changed once I started freshman year. College is not just about getting good grades, it is about growing as a person. Whether you do an academic year abroad or you join a student organization, everything helps to develop qualities that you will use in the real world.

Please highlight any extracurricular activities that are a meaningful part of your collegiate experience and what they taught you.

Being a Student Government Senator and being a part of Delta Sigma Pi helped the development of my leadership and social skills. In these kinds of organizations you attend meetings every week and you debate for bills to pass in Senate. That helped me to grow and to become more responsible.

Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?

Economics is a great field of study; the world needs brilliant and honest economists who can try to make a better, healthier, and less unequal market and world. For those who are undecided, look around you, everything you see or how you live has to do with economics. If you want to be successful in college, you have to love what you do.

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CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Carleton SzeTo



MAY 2013 GRADUATE

Economics, Pre-Law option

CRE Credit Services

Senior Credit Analyst

Briefly describe your role and responsibilities as a new hire.

CRE works with lenders around the country such as Bank of America, Chase, and Wells Fargo. There are many people who try to get a mortgage with less than perfect credit. My responsibility is to analyze an individual's credit situation and advise them on what they need to do in order for them to purchase a home, car, etc. While educating them, I seek out potential inaccuracies on their credit report and give them advice on what to do next, whether it is paying down a certain balance or recommending an audit process to make sure inaccuracies are permanently removed from their credit report. I love the fact that we are genuinely helping people get into their dream homes and working in an environment that is very positive.

When you were choosing a major, what factored into your selection?

After a few introductory classes in the business college, I realized Economics was the one that I really understood and thrived in, so that factored into my decision. Economics teaches everyone about the valuable resources we have and how we use them. It was very important to me to learn the essence of that and possibly educate others about it.

What classes best prepared you for the job?

To be honest, all my classes prepared me not only for my job but everyday life as well. All the classes taught me things like time management and the ability to work well with others in a professional manner. My academic training showed me that the economy affects the market to change constantly. The housing market that I deal with every day at work is affected by the market changes. Another factor is the national average interest rate for mortgages, which sets the market for the entire nation. Again, everyone's situation is different and there are lots of variables to determine the logical economic resolution to someone's financial future.

Please highlight any extracurricular activities that were a meaningful part of your collegiate experience and what they taught you.

Getting involved with extracurricular activities definitely helped with my professional career because when you are involved with an organization you have certain duties you are responsible for within that group. As the President of the Asian American Student Association I had to quickly adapt. I learned a great deal from being in this leadership position, from micro-managing certain aspects of the group to learning how to influence people in positive ways.

Is there anything else you could share with students considering this area of study that will encourage success or allow them to maximize their collegiate career?

I'd definitely encourage individuals to choose something they would enjoy learning. Also, stay involved around the campus, network with others, and just learn as much as possible. I would advise every student to try to take on a leadership role because I truly believe that when an individual takes on a leadership role, he or she can grow and learn from the many situations presented to them as a leader, which will eventually translate to success out here in the "real world." I would also highly recommend taking one of the law classes at OSU; the professors are great.

Scholarships

Each year, the Spears School grants more than 275 individual awards for a total of nearly \$500,000 in scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. These numbers continue to grow as donors recognize the value of providing assistance to college students.

Economics career areas

- Business economics
- Business/government management
- Politics/policy development
- Securities trading
- Commodity trading
- Insurance
- Banking
- Law
- Financial planning/budgeting
- Business consulting
- Stock market analysis
- Efficiency analysis
- Economic development/analysis
- Budget analysis
- Marketing analysis
- Demographic analysis

Career resources for economics majors

OSU Career Services hireosugrads.com

Economics Jobs economicjobs.net

Economist Jobs economistjobs.com

Indeed indeed.com

Simply Hired simplyhired.com

Intern Match internmatch.com

Partnership for Public Service
ourpublicservic.org

International Nonprofit Information
idealist.org

National Association for Business
Economics NABE.com

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis bea.gov

U.S. International Trade Commission
usitc.gov

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics bls.gov

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