APPLY TO THE ECONOMICS MAJOR

SPRING 2020 ADMISSION CYCLE (FOR 2020 SUMMER/AUTUMN ADMISSION TO ECON) UPDATE:

Given the evolving situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the University's decision prohibit in-person gatherings and shift to online-learning practices, adjustments have been made to the spring admissions cycle.

First, the Undergraduate Programs Application is now entirely-accessible via UW Google Forms. Students will be prompted to include the same information asked of our previous hard-copy/paper application, as well as PDF uploads of the personal statement, transcripts, and if applicable, an academic plan created via MyPlan.

Second, the RTW Exam will now be held online via Canvas. It will be held on Friday, April 10, 2020, from 4-4:50pm. There is one RTW session available. Students who register will receive a confirmation email with additional information 1-2 days prior to the exam date (around April 9 or 10). Registration closes at 5pm on Wednesday, April 8.

- Link to Undergraduate Programs Application
  ("You Need Permission" error? Open in "incognito/private" browsing window & use your @uw.edu login info. Click here to resolve.)
- Link to RTW Exam Registration

The deadline remains unchanged: Applications are due by 5pm on Friday, April 10, 2020.

Our goal is to notify applicants of admission decisions via email by May 8, 2020 (prior to the registration period for the 2020 Autumn Quarter).

Stay home, stay healthy, and best wishes for a successful quarter.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following materials and criteria are required for a complete application to the Department of Economics:

1. Admission to the University of Washington
   - Eligible applicants must be accepted and be current UW students with 45 credits completed. For more information about admission to the UW as a first-year student or transfer student, see here.
   - Prospective Transfer Students: Please see an explanation regarding how your transfer application to UW is considered at MyMajor. There is no "direct admission" to the Department of Economics as a transfer applicant to the UW.

2. Completion of the Prerequisite Courses
   - Please check the prerequisite course requirements for each major:
     - Bachelor of Arts
     - Bachelor of Science
   - These courses must be completed with a standard/numerical grade. Credits earned through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced Level (A-Level) exam scores are acceptable.
   - Prerequisite courses may not be in-progress. Courses must be completed before applying.
   - Each course may only be repeated one time each. The higher of the two grades may entered on the application, and will be considered.

3. A completed Undergraduate Program Application
   - Incomplete forms will not be considered.
4. **Updated UW Transcript**
   - Unofficial Transcripts may be saved as a PDF from the Academics tab of your MyUW.
   - Official Transcripts are not required.
   - If you need additional help accessing your UW Unofficial Transcript, [click here](#) for detailed instructions.

5. **Transcripts from Transfer Institutions/Colleges/Universities (for Transfer & Running Start Students)**
   - Please include a transcript from your other institution(s) in PDF format. Unofficial Transcripts are acceptable. Official transcripts are not required.

6. **Personal Statement**
   - See the personal statement prompt below.

7. **Completion of the ECON Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking, & Writing Skills Exam (RTW Exam).**
   - Please see [RTW Exam website](#) for details.
   - We advise students to take the RTW in the same admission cycle that they are applying.
   - Students applying from the Bachelor of Arts to the Bachelor of Science do not need to retake the RTW, and may have their previous RTW score considered, if preferred.
   - RTW scores will be reported directly to the Department of Economics. Students do not need to supply their RTW score on their applications.
   - Students receiving scores below 3 will not be admitted except in very rare/unique situations.

8. **Academic Course Planning Worksheet or Printer-Friendly Version of MyPlan**
   - For those planning to pursue a double major or double degree, please submit a PDF of your MyPlan, showing your quarterly plans as accurately as possible. We understand that plans are not permanent and can change, but we want all applicants to be well-aware of your academic plans, especially in regard to the UW’s [Satisfactory Progress Policies](#).

Interested students are also highly-encouraged to attend a [Prospective Student Information Session](#) for an in-depth look at the application & admissions process.

**PLEASE REVIEW OUR FAQ PAGE BEFORE REACHING OUT TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH QUESTIONS.**

**WHEN TO APPLY?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Cycle</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>For admission to ECON starting...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>2nd Friday, Autumn Quarter</td>
<td>Subsequent Winter Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>2nd Friday, Winter Quarter</td>
<td>Subsequent Spring Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>2nd Friday, Spring Quarter</td>
<td>Subsequent Summer or Autumn Quarter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is **NO** Summer Admission Cycle available during the Summer Quarter.

Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second Friday of the quarter.

Applicants will be notified of their results by May 8th, 2020, in time to register for the 2020 Autumn Quarter.

You may refer to the [UW Academic Calendar](#) to identify when each quarter begins and when each “Second Friday” application deadline will be.

**ADMISSIONS: BY THE NUMBERS**

The Department of Economics is a [capacity-constrained](#) major. Meeting the basic criteria does not guarantee admission to the major.
### Admission Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Cycle</th>
<th>Number of Applications Received</th>
<th>Number of Admitted Applicants</th>
<th>Percentage of Applicants Admitted</th>
<th>Average Prerequisite* GPA for Admits</th>
<th>Average Overall GPA** for Admits</th>
<th>Average RTW Score for Admits (1-6 scale)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2017</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2018</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2018</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2019</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>3.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2019</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2020</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(These GPAs are averages, not cutoffs; roughly half of the students accepted to the major in Winter 2020, for example, had prerequisite and overall GPAs lower than 3.51 and 3.56, respectively. The admissions considerations are holistic. Please be aware that the admissions committee considers many factors when making its decisions, including cumulative GPA, prerequisite GPA, RTW score, the overall strength of the applicant’s academic background/transcript, and the quality of the applicant's personal statement.)

*Prerequisite coursework included in this average are ECON 200, ECON 201, Statistics, and MATH 124 coursework. English Composition is omitted from this average.

**Average Overall GPA included in this average is a combined calculation of student applicants' UW GPA and any GPAs from transferred coursework.

### THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please submit a personal statement with your completed application. The Admissions Committee suggests you spend your time discussing some or all of the following that pertains to you:

- Why are you interested in the Department of Economics? What are your personal, educational, and/or career goals and how do you expect to further those by studying economics? What led you to apply to this major? If you are pursuing a double major or double degree, why are both majors important to your goals?
- Please let the committee know if there are any circumstances that you feel the committee should know that has affected your grades/transcript.
- Describe an experience with diversity or adversity that has had a profound effect on you.
- If you have previously applied to the Economics major, what has improved since your previous application?

Maximum parameters: 1 single-sided page, typed & double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font, with 0.5” margins.

The Personal Statement is an important piece of your application. Please be sure to address the prompt(s), and adhere to the parameters. UW has plenty of resources that can help you write a great personal statement:

- [Odegaard Writing & Research Center](#)
- [The Writing Center at The Center for Learning & Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE)](#)
- [The Writing Center at the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity Instructional Center (OMA/D IC)](#)
- [Applications & Personal Statements resource page by UW Academic Support Programs](#)

### THE HOLISTIC REVIEW (I.E. HOW WILL MY APPLICATION BE CONSIDERED?)
In reviewing each application, a broad range of factors are taken into consideration. All aspects of the application are highly-considered -- Prerequisite course grades, overall academic performance, RTW exam results, and the personal statement. Each component of the application should complement each other, and showcase a student's interests and abilities toward studying economics. For example, if a student mentions high enthusiasm in learning economics, then that enthusiasm should also be reflected in the student's grades in economics coursework, as well as their result on their RTW exam, etc.

For students with credits and transcripts from other institutions, it's important for us to see a student's progress through each academic term. This is why we request for each applicant to submit a transcript for each college-level institution attended. We are aware that a "transfer credits summary" typically appears on your UW transcript. However, this does not provide us with complete information about the transfer courses taken.

This holistic approach in reviewing applications to the Department of Economics allows our program to focus beyond just a few factors, and consider the applicant as a whole.

**TUTORING RESOURCES**

There are a number a tutoring resources available at the UW for courses such as ECON 200, ECON 201, introductory statistics and calculus.

- Economics Tutoring Resources
- Math Study Center
- Statistics Tutor & Study Center

*The University of Washington, as a standing policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran. Any discriminatory action can be a cause for disciplinary action. This policy applies to all University programs and facilities including, but not limited to, admissions, educational programs, and employment. Such discrimination is prohibited by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Age discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1978, Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, other federal and state statutes and regulations, and university policy. Inquiries regarding the application of these laws and regulations to the University may be directed to the University's Equal Employment Officer; to the director; Seattle Regional Office, Office for Civil Rights, US. Department of Education; or to the director, Seattle Area Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor.*

Department of Economics · University of Washington · 305 Savery Hall, Box 353330 · Seattle, WA 98195-3330
Telephone: (206) 543-5955 · Fax (206) 685-7477 · Email: econdept@uw.edu

Copyright © 2012-2020 University of Washington · Privacy · Terms · Site Map · Contact Us
Header background adapted from Razvan Orendovici's Mt Rainier reflecting in Drumheller Fountain CC SA

Source URL: https://econ.washington.edu/apply-economics-major