What to do with a degree in Economics

Economics examines how economic activity (production, consumption, and trade of goods and services) is organized, how individuals and societies structure economic activity, and the relative effectiveness of different institutions in managing scarcity. Economists ask questions such as what gets produced, how is it produced, and who gets what is produced.

**Key Skills & Knowledge**

**Analysis of business environment** - Understanding of economic principles such as consumption, production, exchange, market and firm equilibrium, unemployment, inflation, economic growth, business cycles and the internal economy

**Analytical thinking and manipulating numerical data** - Compile, analyze and interpret results for economic data; Apply statistical methods and analysis; Creative problem solving

**Critical/logistical thinking** - Effectively review and evaluate goals and policies; Perform cost/benefit analyses; create and evaluate financial reports/statements

**Communication** - Presenting ideas and data clearly and effectively; writing articulately and analytically; Technical report writing

**Organizational** - Planning and budgeting; the ability to implement projects and organize people and ideas; Conceptualize and implement projects; Manipulate numerical data; maintain accurate records; Time and resource management, ability to meet deadlines

**Policy evaluation** - Explain and understand contemporary problems of unemployment, inflation, economic growth, business cycles and the international economy

**Problem solving skills**—approaching topics and problems from various perspectives; analyzing multiple dimensions of a problem; identifying problems and developing solutions; decision making skills

**Sample Job Titles**

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<tr>
<th>Actuary</th>
<th>Efficiency Expert</th>
<th>Natural Resources Economist</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economist</td>
<td>Exchange Agent</td>
<td>Policy Analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agrologist</td>
<td>Farm Management Specialist</td>
<td>Project Economist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>Financial Advisor/Analyst</td>
<td>Real Estate Agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>Financial Economist</td>
<td>Research Economist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broker</td>
<td>Financial Planner</td>
<td>Securities Analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Forecaster</td>
<td>Foreign Services</td>
<td>Statistician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claims Examiner</td>
<td>Foreign Trade Analyst</td>
<td>Stockbroker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commodities Broker</td>
<td>Home Economist</td>
<td>Supply Chain Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Analyst</td>
<td>Industrial Development Officer</td>
<td>Tax Auditor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Analyst</td>
<td>Industrial Economist</td>
<td>Tax Economist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demographer</td>
<td>Insurance Agent/Broker</td>
<td>Teacher/Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Development Specialist</td>
<td>Internal Auditor</td>
<td>Technical Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Forecaster</td>
<td>International Trade Economist</td>
<td>Trade Economist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economical Analyst/Advisor</td>
<td>Labour Economist</td>
<td>Trade Policy Analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economist</td>
<td>Loan Officer</td>
<td>Trust Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economist Legislative Assistant</td>
<td>Market Research</td>
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Some of these roles may require further training, certification or education. Check out the Alberta Government’s occupational profiles for salary info and more detail: [alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo)

**Need help deciding what to do?**

Formal Career Assessments like the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator can be helpful tools for your career development. Request an assessment via CareerLink
Potential Industries

- Agricultural Companies
- Analysis and Forecasting Firms
- Banks & Financial Institutions
- Benefits & Compensation
- Credit & Loans
- Customs
- Economic Research Institutions
- Environmental Protection Agencies
- Financial Information Firms
- Government
- Health care and social assistance
- Immigration
- Insurance
- International Trade
- Investments
- Labour Unions
- Logistics
- Manufacturing
- Marker Research
- Oil & Gas industry
- Policy Research and Development
- Post-Secondary
- Real Estate
- Research
- Risk Management
- Statistical Research
- Stock Exchanges
- Telecommunications
- Transportation Companies
- Trust Companies
- Utility Companies

Associations & Professional Development

Associations provide an opportunity for continued professional development. Many also offer networking opportunities and other events for their members.

- Alberta Agricultural Economics Association: [http://www.aaea.ab.ca](http://www.aaea.ab.ca)
- AB Human Ecology & Home Economics Association: [http://www.ahea.ab.ca](http://www.ahea.ab.ca)
- Canada West Foundation: [http://cwf.ca/](http://cwf.ca/)
- Canadian Agricultural Economics Society: [http://caes.usask.ca/](http://caes.usask.ca/)
- Canadian Association for Business Economics: [http://www.cabe.ca](http://www.cabe.ca)
- Canadian Association of Management Consultants: [http://www.cmc-canada.ca/](http://www.cmc-canada.ca/)
- Canadian Economics Association: [http://www.economics.ca](http://www.economics.ca)

Additional Resources

- Advertising Career Directory
- Career Choices: Economics, Business
- Careers for Number Crunchers & Other Quantitative Types, Rebecca Burnett
- Choosing a Career in Business, Steven Stumpf
- Great Jobs for Economics Majors by Blythe Camenson
- International Jobs, Eric Kocher
- Journey to Become a Diplomat (with a Guide to Careers in World Affairs) by Cunningham, George
- Making It in Advertising, Making It in Public Relations, Leonard Mogel

Faculty Contact
Social Sciences 454
T: 403.220.5857
E: econ@ucalgary.ca
W: econ.ucalgary.ca
W: ucalgary.ca/admissions/programs

Student Clubs
Society of Undergraduates in Economics (SUE):
www.ucalgarysue.com

Aligned Majors:
International Business Strategy, Supply Chain Management