

ECONOMICS MAJOR: PUBLIC POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY OPTION (B.A.)

<https://paulcollege.unh.edu/economics/program/ba/economics-major-public-policy-sustainability-option>

Description

The **Option in Public Policy and Sustainability** (B.A. degree) examines the factors that influence economic, social, and environmental outcomes, such as unemployment, poverty, economic inequality, health disparities, technological innovation, and pollution. Students will develop the institutional knowledge and theoretical perspective to understand the impact that decisions of individuals, firms, communities, and governments have on such outcomes. Students will analyze the impact of specific government policies and potential reforms, theoretically and empirically.

This option is designed for students seeking careers in policy analysis and research positions at government agencies; think tanks such as RAND Corporation, Urban Institute, and Mathematica Policy Research; consulting firms such as Abt Associates; and non-governmental organizations.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

B.A. economics majors must complete nine courses in economics plus ADMN 510 Business Statistics with a grade of at least C- (1.67) in each Paul College major course and an average grade of 2.0 or better in major courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Freshman Year		
ECON 401	Principles of Economics (Macro)	4
ECON 402	Principles of Economics (Micro)	4
ECON 501	Business and Economic History	4
ADMN 403	Computing Essentials for Business	1
MATH 422	Mathematics for Business Applications	4
or MATH 424A	Calculus for Social Sciences	
PAUL 405	Freshman Academic Experience I	1
PAUL 406	Freshman Academic Experience II	1
PHIL 431	Business Ethics	4
Sophomore Year		

ADMN 510	Business Statistics	4
ECON 605	Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis	4
or ECON 606	Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus	
ECON 611	Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis	4
Junior and Senior Years		
ECON 774	Senior Economics Seminar ¹	4
Select four (4) additional ECON electives ²		16
Total Credits		55

¹ ECON 774 Senior Economics Seminar is the capstone course for the B.A. major and satisfies the capstone requirement of the University Discovery Program.

² Specific electives for the BA Options must be chosen from an approved list of courses.

Coursework in accounting is recommended but not required. B.A. economics majors may choose to focus their major electives to satisfy the requirements of one of the three options defined by the Department of Economics.

Public Policy and Sustainability Option Requirements

Students must complete at least two required courses and at least three courses total. At least two courses must be ECON courses. (Note: Some courses may have prerequisites that are not part of the option.)

Code	Title	Credits
Required courses:		
ECON 653	Law and Economics	4
or ECON 656	Labor Economics	
ECON 706	Economics of Climate Change	4
or EREC 572	Introduction to Natural Resource Economics	
Select one of the following:		
ECON 625	Economic History of the United States	
ECON 633	Microfinance	
ECON 653	Law and Economics ²	
ECON 654	Industrial Economics and Business Innovation	
ECON 656	Labor Economics ²	
ECON #668	Economic Development	
ECON 706	Economics of Climate Change ²	
EREC 572	Introduction to Natural Resource Economics ^{1, 2}	
EREC 606	Land Economics Perspectives: Uses, Policies, and Taxes ¹	
EREC 627	Community Economics ¹	
EREC 680	Agricultural and Food Policy ¹	
EREC 708	Environmental Economics ¹	
EREC #760	Ecological-Economic Modeling for Decision Making ¹	
GEOG 582	Global Trade and Local Development ¹	
HMP 746	Health Policy ¹	
SUST 501	Sustainability in Action ¹	
Other 600-level or 700-level course, with approval from ECON Dept.		
Total Credits		12

¹ Satisfies the requirement of the option, but does not count toward the four-elective requirement of the economics B.A. degree. Some courses may have pre-requisites; students are responsible for checking and meeting pre-requisite requirements.

² Course may not be used toward the option requirements more than once.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students have core proficiency in microeconomics. They understand key concepts including opportunity cost, marginal analysis, voluntary exchange, diminishing marginal returns, equilibrium and market structure.
- Students have core proficiency in macroeconomics. They understand key concepts including GDP, inflation, interest rates, business cycles, exchange rates, financial institutions and fiscal and monetary policy.
- Students have strong oral communication skills. This includes fundamental skills in preparing and delivering presentations, as well as being able to explain technical material clearly and concisely.
- Students are able to use economic models to understand real-world issues relevant to business, public policy and society.
- Students are able to communicate economic concepts clearly in writing. This involves having strong fundamental writing skills as well as being able to explain technical material clearly and concisely.