

Economics and Politics, B.S.

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Politics

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Overview

Politics and economics are deeply interconnected. Political institutions and decision-making impact economic growth, income distribution, and many other aspects of economic life. Both fiscal and monetary policies affect the economy: but these policies also reflect political considerations and influence political outcomes. For example, while the United Nations is often thought of in purely political terms, the Security Council can and does impose sanctions on countries-- an example of an economic policy used for political change.

The Economics and Politics major is offered jointly between the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy and Technology (<https://www.cmu.edu/cmist/>) (CMIST) and the Undergraduate Economics Program (<https://www.cmu.edu/tepper/programs/undergraduate-economics/>) (UEP). The major will appeal to any student interested in the design, evaluation, and political implementation of economic policy. It will be especially attractive to students considering careers in politics, government agencies, political and business consulting, lobbying, or the law.

The BS in Economics and Politics is an interdisciplinary major. The major will develop the political context and underpinnings of economic policy making. It will explore how political institutions resolve the tradeoffs and disagreements associated with policymaking and how they can facilitate or impede desirable economic outcomes.

CMIST strengths lie in topics such as emerging technology, national security, and grand strategy. Economic policy is one facet of grand strategy through which governments pursue domestic and international goals. This major will enable students to understand economic statecraft from a broad perspective. It will address key issues such as how multilateral economic institutions such as the IMF and World Bank use economic coercion. Whether coercion is successful or not depends not only on the levers of power but also on variations in regime structures, alongside complex linkages in the international economy. For example, the viability of the "Euro Zone" depends on whether the political economic agreements necessary to mitigate institutional weaknesses are politically feasible or destined to failure. In short, international economics affects everything from human rights practices to trade patterns to energy markets to tech company investments to global compliance with climate change treaties.

Curriculum (175-187 units)

The major can be pursued as a primary major or additional major. The requirements are the same for both. A maximum of **four** courses may double count between the Economics and Politics major and any other majors or minor. Unlimited double counting is permitted with General Education requirements. (<http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schools-colleges/dietrichcollegeofhumanitiesandsocialsciences/general-education/>)

Mathematics 19 units

Students must complete all of the following courses.

	Units
21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus	10
or 21-112 Integral Calculus	
21-256 Multivariate Analysis	9
or 21-259 Calculus in Three Dimensions	

Economics Core 54 units

Students must complete all of the following courses.

73-102 Principles of Microeconomics *	9
or 73-104 Principles of Microeconomics Accelerated	

73-103 Principles of Macroeconomics	9
73-230 Intermediate Microeconomics	9
73-240 Intermediate Macroeconomics	9
73-265 Economics and Data Science	9
73-274 Econometrics I	9

* Students who place out of 73-102 based on the economics placement exam will receive a pre-req waiver for 73-102 and are waived from taking 73-102.

Political Science Core 57 units

Students must complete all of the following courses.

84-101 Introduction to Political Science	9
84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy	9
84-266 Research Design for Political Science	9
84-310 Policy in a Global Economy 1: International Trade and Trade Policy	6
84-311 Policy in a Global Economy 2: International Macroeconomics and Finance	6

Students must complete two of the following three courses. If all three are taken, the third can count as an elective.

84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions	9
84-226 International Relations	9
84-275 Comparative Politics	9

Electives 27 units

Majors are required to take 27 units (usually three courses) from the elective lists below. At least 9 units (typically one course) must be taken from Economics (73-xxx) and at least 9 units (typically one course) must be taken from the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy and Technology (84-xxx). Students may complete electives through coursework in the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) (<https://www.cmu.edu/cmist/washington-center/washington-semester-program/>).

Economics Electives

73-328 Health Economics	12
73-332 Political Economy	9
73-338 Financial Crises and Risk	9
73-347 Game Theory Applications for Economics and Business	9
73-348 Behavioral Economics	9
73-352 Public Economics	9
73-353 Financial Regulation in the Digital Age	9
73-365 Firms, Market Structures, and Strategy	9
73-366 Designing the Digital Economy	9
73-367 AI, Technology, and Work	9
73-408 Law and Economics	9
73-421 Emerging Markets	9
73-427 Sustainability, Energy, and Environmental Economics	9

Political Science Electives

84-120 Introduction to US Constitutional Law	9
84-200 Security War Game Simulation	3
84-252 Briefing in the Policy World	6
84-274 An Introduction to Technology and War	9
84-280 Popcorn and Politics: American Foreign Policy at the Movies	12
84-285 Introduction to Legal Education and the Legal Profession	9
84-301 Policy & Persuasion	6
84-303 International Human Rights	6
84-304 Analysis of Current US National Security Priorities	6
84-306 Latin American Politics	9
84-309 American Political Divides and Great Debates	9

84-312	Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa	6
84-314	Politics, Technological Change, and Economic Growth	9
84-315	Rise of the Asian Economies	9
84-319	Civil-Military Relations	9
84-322	Nonviolent Conflict and Revolution	9
84-323	War and Peace in the Contemporary Middle East	9
84-324	The Future of Democracy	9
84-325	Contemporary American Foreign Policy	9
84-327	Who Really Runs America?: Subnational Governance and Policymaking	9
84-328	Military Strategy and Doctrine	9
84-329	Asian Strategies	6
84-330	Race for the Future: US-China Tech Competition	6
84-331	Technology, Law, and Democracy	6
84-332	Contemporary US Constitutional Law Issues Taught in Washington, DC, through CMU/WSP	6
84-333	Law of US Democracy	9
84-338	Analysis of US Presidential Powers Taught in Washington, DC, through CMU/WSP	6
84-341	Transnational Criminal Networks & International Security	6
84-343	Offensive Cyber: Law & Policy	6
84-345	Hackers, the Law, & Policy Responses	6
84-347	Congress & National Security	9
84-349	Digital Diplomacy: Cybersecurity Challenges and Global Governance	9
84-350	A Strategist's Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	9
84-352	Representation and Voting Rights	9
84-353	US-China Strategic Stability	6
84-355	Democracy's Data: Analytics and Insights into American Elections	9
84-356	Applied Political Data Analytics	9
84-358	Money, Connections, and Power: Interests and Influence in the US	9
84-360	CMU/WSP Internship Seminar Taught in Washington, DC, through CMU/WSP	24
84-362	Diplomacy and Statecraft	9
84-363	Click. Hack. Rule: Understanding the Power & Peril of Cyber Conflict	9
84-365	The Politics of Fake News and Misinformation	9
84-366	The 21st-Century Presidency: Expanding Powers, New Challenges	9
84-367	The Politics of Antisemitism	9
84-368	Technology Ethics	9
84-369	Decision Science for International Relations	9
84-370	Nuclear Security & Arms Control	9
84-371	International Governance of Artificial Intelligence	9
84-373	International Law	9
84-375	Geopolitics of Innovation	9
84-380	US Grand Strategy	9
84-383	National Cyber Policy & Strategy	6
84-386	The Privatization of Force	9
84-387	Remote Systems and the Cyber Domain in Conflict	9
84-389	Terrorism and Insurgency	9
84-393	The US Congress: Legislative Progress or Paralysis?	9
84-402	Judicial Politics and Behavior	9
84-405	The Future of Warfare	9

Additional Electives

19-411	Science and Innovation Leadership for the 21st Century: Firms, Nations, and Tech	9
70-365	International Trade and International Law	9
70-430	International Management	9
79-280	Coffee and Capitalism	9
79-318	Sustainable Social Change: History and Practice	9
80-135	Introduction to Political Philosophy	9
80-136	Social Structure, Public Policy & Ethics	9

80-335	Social and Political Philosophy	9
80-348	Health, Human Rights, and International Development	9
80-447	Seminar in Global Justice	9
88-365	Behavioral Economics and Public Policy	9
88-366	Behavioral Economics of Poverty and Development	9
88-367	Designing Economics Experiments in the Wild	9

Capstone**18-30 units**

Students must complete all of the following courses.

73-497	Senior Project or Senior Honors Thesis in Dietrich or Tepper (18 units total)	12
84-500	Senior Seminar	9

Note: Students in the BS in Economics and Politics who complete a Dietrich or Tepper Honors Thesis in economics may use 73-497 (Senior Project) as an economics elective.

Sample Four-Year Plan

These sample curricula represent a plan for completing the requirements for the B.S. in Economics and Politics. Economics and Politics students are encouraged to spend a semester studying and interning in Washington, DC, through the CMU/WSP (<https://www.cmu.edu/cmist/washington-center/washington-semester-program/>), and/or study abroad. The plan below demonstrates that a semester off-campus fits well into the curriculum. Students may declare the BS in Economics and Politics as early as the second semester of the freshman year and should consult frequently with the CMIST advisor about their course of study. Please note that this is only a sample plan of study and not the only possible plan of study. The Economics and Politics major and Dietrich College General Education curricula provide a high degree of flexibility in sequencing and coursework. Double counting between the major and General Education requirements is unlimited. The plan below shows a very conservative view of double counting.

First-Year		Second-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus	21-256 Multivariate Analysis	73-230 Intermediate Microeconomics	73-240 Intermediate Macroeconomics
36-200 Reasoning with Data	73-103 Principles of Macroeconomics	73-265 Economics and Data Science	73-274 Econometrics I
73-102 Principles of Microeconomics	84-275 Comparative Politics 1 of 3 options; students must take 2	84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions 1 of 3 options; students must take 2	84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy
84-101 Introduction to Political Science	84-226 International Relations 1 of 3 options; students must take 2	84-266 Research Design for Political Science	84-310 Policy in a Global Economy 1: International Trade and Trade Policy
Grand Challenge Seminar	First-Year Writing	General Education	84-311 Policy in a Global Economy 2: International Macroeconomics and Finance
99-101 Core@CMU	Disciplinary Perspectives: Humanities		General Education

Third-Year		Fourth-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
General Education	CMU/WSP or Study Abroad	73-497 Senior Project	84-500 Senior Seminar
General Education	Explore	General Education	General Education
General Education	Explore	Economics & Politics Elective	Explore
General Education	Explore	Economics & Politics Elective	Explore
Economics & Politics Elective	Explore	Explore	Explore