

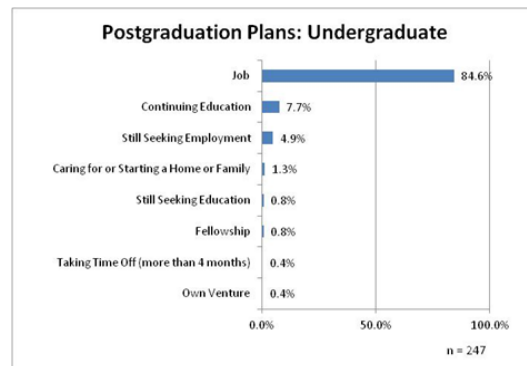
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
Career Education

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN **ECONOMICS**?

Where do Economics majors go?

According to the 2015 Graduating Student Survey (with a 76.2% response rate for undergraduates in the Economics department):

- 93.1% of graduates were employed or were accepted to graduate school or a fellowship.
 - 84.6% were employed
 - 7.7% had secure plans to attend grad school
 - 0.8% had fellowships



Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Columbia Economics majors in recent years:



Examples of graduate schools and fellowship programs that have accepted Columbia Economics majors in recent years include:

- Columbia University
- University of Texas
- The Graduate Institute, Geneva
- Sciences Po, Paris
- University of California–Berkeley
- Harvard University
- University of Pennsylvania Law School
- London School of Economics (UK)
- Fulbright
- Mitchell Scholarship

What jobs do Economics majors do?

A degree in economics provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

- **Business and Finance:** Analyst, Operations Analyst, Management Consultant, Equity Trader, Hedge Fund Analyst, Investment Banker, Business Analyst, Asset Manager, Financial Advisor, Consultant

- **Economic Development:** Regional/Urban Planner, Housing Development Aid, Project Associate, Economic Analyst, Redevelopment Specialist
- **Public Finance:** Research Associate, Public Finance Specialist, Financial Analyst, Junior Consultant, Assistant Bank Examiner
- **Government and Public Policy:** Economist, Public Affairs Specialist, Budget Analyst, Program Manager
- **Education:** Researcher, Professor, Teacher, Administrator
- **Law and International Trade:** Market Research Analyst, International Trade Specialist, Trade Finance Specialist
- **Marketing and Retail:** Marketing Associate, Consumer Business Analyst, Account Representative, Brand Manager, Assistant Buyer, Store Manager, Merchandise Analyst
- **Real Estate and Urban Planning:** Acquisitions Analyst, Real Estate Broker, Property Manager, Appraiser, Asset Manager, Cost Analyst, Project Manager, Urban Planner

Use CCE's [Industry Exploration](#) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.

What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. *Ability to work in a team structure*
2. *Ability to make decisions and solve problems*
3. *Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization*
4. *Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work*
5. *Ability to obtain and process information*
6. *Ability to analyze quantitative data*
7. *Technical knowledge related to the job*
8. *Proficiency with computer software programs*
9. *Ability to create and/or edit written reports*
10. *Ability to sell or influence others*

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren't the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Economics majors bring?

According to the Economics Department at Columbia, the economics curriculum helps you to develop the following skills:

- Critical thinking and quantitative analysis
- Ability to gather and analyze data related to social, economic, and business problems
- Ability to write clear, concise technical reports and essays
- Ability to communicate the results of analysis
- Ability to understand how incentives and skills influence the behavior of individuals, business firms, and other organizations

What if I'm an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student's major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE's International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.