

**Brandeis University**  
**Department of Economics**

**Advising Summary**

**The Economics Major**

The Economics major consists of eleven courses. These include six core courses (two introductory courses and four intermediate theory courses (Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, and Econometrics (Econ 184b or 185b))), four electives, and calculus. **For students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2012 or later, the required introductory courses are Econ 10a (Introduction to Microeconomics) and Econ 20a (Introduction to Macroeconomics). (Econ 10a is a prerequisite for Econ 20a. Completion of Econ 2a with a grade of B+ or higher may be substituted for Econ 10a.) For students who entered Brandeis prior to Fall 2012, the introductory requirement can be satisfied in three ways: (a) Econ 2a and 8b (now 28b), (b) Econ 2a and 20a, or (c) Econ 10a and 20a. Students who entered prior to Fall 2012 and who have not yet begun taking Economics are strongly encouraged to take Econ 10a and 20a.**

A student must satisfy the calculus requirement prior to enrolling in Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, or one of the Econometrics courses. (Details about the calculus requirement can be found on page 2 of the longer advising memo). Of the four electives, AT LEAST two must be upper-level electives. Upper-level electives currently include all Economics courses with a number above 100 EXCEPT Econ 122b (Economics of the Middle East) and Econ 175a (Introduction to the Economics of Development). In addition to Economics courses and cross-listed courses, a limited number of undergraduate courses from other departments that have significant economic content can also count as lower-level electives. A list of these courses is found on pages 9-10 of the longer advising memo. However, Econ 92, 98, 99, and 194 cannot be counted toward the major. Bus 71a (formerly Econ 71a) cannot be taken concurrently with or after completing Econ 171a; Bus 71a does NOT count toward the Economics major. Students whose introductory courses are Econ 2a and 8b can count Econ 20a as an elective. However, Econ 20a cannot be taken as an elective concurrently with or after completing Econ 82b. Finally, at least 3 of the 4 electives for the major must have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite.

No course taken Pass/Fail may be counted toward the major. (The one exception is that the calculus requirement can be satisfied by completing a calculus course with a pass/fail grade of P.) Students must earn at least a C in each of the introductory courses and at least a C- in Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, and Econometrics. Only one elective with a grade of D+, D, or D- may be counted toward the major. Finally, a student must attain a gpa of at least 2.00 in his/her "best" ten Economics courses. Details of how this gpa is calculated can be found on page 3 of the longer advising memo.

**The Economics Minor**

The Economics minor consists of five courses – two introductory courses and three electives. **For students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2012 or later, the required introductory courses are Econ 10a (Introduction to Microeconomics) and Econ 20a (Introduction to Macroeconomics). (Econ 10a is a prerequisite for Econ 10a. Completion of Econ 2a with a grade of B+ or higher may be substituted for Econ 10a.) For students who entered Brandeis prior to Fall 2012, the introductory requirement can be satisfied in three ways: (a) Econ 2a and 8b (now 28b), (b) Econ 2a and 20a, or (c) Econ 10a and 20a. Students who entered prior to Fall 2012 and who have not yet begun taking Economics are strongly encouraged to take Econ 10a and 20a.**

Econ 92, 98, 99, and 194 cannot be counted as electives for the minor. Only Economics courses or cross-listed courses that use Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite can be counted toward the minor. The courses from other departments, listed on pages 9-10 of the longer advising memo, which DO count as lower-level electives for the major, DO NOT count for the minor.

No course taken Pass/Fail may be counted toward the minor. Students must earn at least a C in both introductory courses and at least a C- in each of their three electives. In addition, a student must attain a gpa of at least 2.00 in the five courses that constitute his/her minor.

### **Combining the Economics Major and the Business Minor**

The Business minor consists of six courses, one of which is Econ 2a or 10a. In completing the Economics major and the Business minor, no more than two courses may be double-counted. This means that completing both programs requires a total of 15 distinct courses (including calculus). One way to think about this is that students may double-count Econ 2a or 10a and Bus 10a. In addition to those two courses, they must complete four other courses to finish the Business minor and eight distinct courses to finish the Economics major.

### **Combining the Economics Minor and the Business Minor**

In completing these two minors, no more than two courses may be double-counted. Thus, finishing both minors requires a total of 9 distinct courses. Students may double-count their two introductory Economics courses. They would need four additional courses to finish the Business minor and three distinct electives to finish the Economics minor. For students choosing this combination, no business courses may be counted as electives for the Economics minor.

### **Combining the Economics Major and the Business Major**

The Business major consists of Econ 2a or 10a plus 10.5 other courses. The “half” course is a module on quantitative methods – students who have taken Econ 83a are exempt from this requirement. Besides Econ 2a or 10a and Econ 83a, at most two other courses can be double-counted for the two majors as follows: Bus 10a (required for the Business major) will count as a lower level elective for Economics and Econ 8b or 20a (required for the Economics major) will count as an elective for Business.

### **Combining the Economics Minor and the Business Major**

Besides Econ 2a or 10a and Econ 83a, at most two other courses can be double-counted. For students choosing this combination, no business courses may be counted as electives for the Economics minor. In addition, students must take a minimum of 14 total courses for the major and minor.

### **Students Who Arrive with Previous Exposure to Economics**

1. Students who arrive with credit for a one-semester Introduction to Economics course should consult the Undergraduate Advising Head regarding appropriate departmental credit.
2. Students who arrive with AP credit in micro (4 or 5) are exempt from Econ 10a and can complete the major with one fewer course. The same is true for students who have transfer credit for Introductory Micro.
3. Students who arrive with AP credit in macro (4 or 5) are exempt from Econ 20a and can complete the major with one fewer course. The same is true for students who have transfer credit for Introductory Macro.
4. A few students will arrive at Brandeis with an International Baccalaureate (IB) degree in Economics. Students who receive a 5 or better on the Higher-Level IB Economics exam can receive credit for both Econ 10a and 20a and can complete the major with eight additional courses. The University only recognizes Higher-Level IB exams.
5. The Registrar determines appropriate departmental credit for A-level and other recognized international exams. The University does not recognize O-level exams.

### **Important Reminders**

1. On the Field of Study form, in the “Comments” section, the advisor should record any credits given for AP or international exams. Other exemptions from course requirements for work done elsewhere (e.g., credit for college work completed prior to transferring to Brandeis or summer or study abroad courses) can be granted ONLY by the Undergraduate Advising Head.
2. **If a student is planning to study abroad or take summer courses at an institution other than Brandeis, the student should be advised to contact the Undergraduate Advising Head as soon as possible.**