

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
Department of Economics

Memorandum

June 4, 2025

To: All Economics Faculty

From: The Undergraduate Program Director

Subject: Undergraduate Advising

## Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to assist members of the department in their roles as academic advisors to Economics majors and minors. Except for new faculty in their first year and those with heavy administrative assignments, all Economics faculty will be advising undergraduates. This memo describes the rules governing the requirements for the department's programs and the process by which students formally "declare" an Economics major or minor.

For the major, the change in departmental requirements of greatest relevance to advising is the department's implementation of the [Foundational Literacies](#) component of [The Brandeis Core](#). All students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2019 or later must fulfill writing intensive, oral communication, and digital literacy requirements within each major. Economics majors satisfy the digital literacy requirement, along with the University's quantitative reasoning requirement, by completing Econ 83a or 184b. How Economics majors fulfill the writing intensive and oral communication Foundational Literacy requirements has evolved over time, as described below.

Fall 2019-Spring 2025. The writing intensive requirement was satisfied by Econ 26b, a 2-credit practicum taken with or after Econ 82b. The oral communication requirement was satisfied by Econ 25a, a 2-credit practicum taken with or after Econ 80a. Starting in Fall 2024, Economics and Business double majors can take Bus 47a to satisfy both requirements.

Fall 2025-. The writing intensive requirement will be satisfied by taking an Econ class designated as writing intensive, Bus 47a, or another writing intensive social science course approved by the Department. The oral communication requirement will be satisfied by taking an oral communication designated Econ course, Bus 47a, or another designated social science course.

One challenge in the 2025-2026 academic year will be advising seniors who have not yet satisfied one or both Foundational Literacy requirements now that Econ 25a and 26b are no longer offered.

The elective requirements for the minor were significantly revised in the 2019-2020 academic year. Students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2020 or later must satisfy the new requirements. These students must take 4 electives in addition to the two required introductory courses. One course that does not have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite can count as an elective for the minor. For Business majors and minors, one Business course (Bus 10a) can double count as an Economics minor elective. Students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020 are subject to the old requirements. They must take 3 electives for the minor. Each of these electives must have an Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite. For Business majors or minors, no Business courses can count toward the Economics minor.

The goal in changing the minor requirements was to better align the elective requirements for the minor with those for major without weakening the economic content of the minor. The revised requirements should create less confusion among students regarding which courses will count for the minor and should be easier for both Economics and Business faculty to explain to students. It should also smooth the process of switching from a major to a minor since no courses that count toward the major will be "lost" when converting to a minor.

There have been a few other significant changes to the major and minor requirements that may be relevant when advising students who have taken time away from Brandeis. Majors who entered Brandeis in Fall 2014 or later must satisfy the calculus requirement. (Prior to that, calculus was only a prerequisite for the intermediate theory courses.) For students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2012 or later, the introductory course requirements are Econ 10a and 20a rather than Econ 2a and 8b (now 28b). Since the requirements have not otherwise changed since Fall 2009, you will rarely have advisees who are subject to earlier requirements. Any questions regarding major or minor requirements for students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2009 can be directed to the Undergraduate Advising Head.

The “Bible” with respect to requirements for all department programs is the [University Bulletin](#). The requirements for the Economics major and minor can also be accessed through the Economics Department [website](#) (click on “Undergraduate” and then on “Major and Minor Requirements” for the official Bulletin version or on “Advising Information” for advice aimed specifically at our students). This memo is intended to provide advisors with a more interpretive and user-friendly guide to our requirements. A separate “Advising Summary” gives a concise list of the requirements for the department’s programs.

There are two ways a student can declare a major or minor. Many students discuss the program with the Undergraduate Advising Head, get the Undergraduate Advising Head’s signature on the declaration form, and are then assigned an advisor by Leslie. In this case, you may only see the student later if the student comes to you with questions about the program. Other students will seek out an advisor first, fill out the declaration form with the advisor, and then obtain the Undergraduate Advising Head’s signature. In the latter case, you will be involved in helping the student fill out the declaration form. That procedure is described below in the section labeled “The Mechanics of Declaring a Major or Minor.”

Once the declaration process is complete, you will see your new advisee in the list of advisees on the My Advisees page in Workday. You can view the student’s major/minor declaration form on the History page of the student’s record (for declarations from Summer 2024 onward).

## **Programs**

The Economics Department offers both a major in Economics and a minor in Economics. The Economics minor is available only to students whose major is something other than Economics. In addition, the Business Department offers an interdisciplinary Business major and Business minor that are of interest to many Economics students as well as a Finance minor (introduced in Fall 2023).

### **The Economics Major**

The requirements of the Economics major are:

1. two introductory courses
2. calculus
3. four intermediate theory courses (Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, and 184b)
4. four electives
5. students must also satisfy the writing intensive and oral communication requirements

The courses in items 1 and 3 represent the six core courses. In addition to the six core courses, the four electives, and calculus, there is an optional senior honors thesis.

***The introductory courses.*** 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 can substitute for Econ 10a.) The introductory courses are offered each semester and by the Summer School. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in both introductory courses to continue with the major. A prospective major who receives a grade of C- or lower must retake the course and will not be allowed to enroll in core courses for which that course is a prerequisite until a grade of C or higher has been attained.

**Calculus.** All majors must satisfy the calculus requirement. The calculus requirement can be fulfilled in one of three ways: a) completing Math 10a, an equivalent course, or a more advanced calculus course with a grade of C- or above or with a pass/fail grade of P, b) scoring at least 4 on the AP Mathematics AB test or at least 3 on the AP Mathematics BC test, or c) passing a departmental placement exam. Students who have taken a college calculus course elsewhere or who are entitled to Math 10a credit based on their AP or international exam score should transfer those credits to Brandeis. Students who have taken a calculus course and feel they have mastered the material but have not received the necessary math or exam credit may take the departmental placement exam.

More advanced calculus classes that satisfy the calculus requirement include Math 10b, 20a, 22b, and higher numbered Math classes that have a calculus prerequisite. Classes in linear algebra (Math 15a, 16b, 22a, etc.) do not satisfy the calculus requirement.

The 2-hour placement exam is administered once at the start of each semester and each summer school session. Students who would like to sign up for the exam can do so on the Department website under [Undergraduate / Advising Information](#). Questions about how to sign up for the exam can be referred to Leslie. Students are encouraged to review prior to the exam; a sample exam is also posted on the Department website under [Undergraduate / Advising Information](#). The exam can only be taken once. Questions about the calculus requirement or the placement exam can be directed to the Undergraduate Advising Head.

All students must satisfy the calculus requirement prior to taking the intermediate theory courses (Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, and 184b) or any of the upper-level electives. If it is found that a student enrolled in Econ 80a, Econ 82b, Econ 83a, or Econ 184b has not successfully completed this prerequisite at any time during the semester, the student will be dropped from the course.

**The 80-level theory courses.** Students are required to take Econ 80a (Microeconomic Theory), Econ 82b (Macroeconomic Theory), and Econ 83a (Statistics for Economic Analysis). The 80-level theory courses are offered each semester and by the Summer School. These courses can be taken in any order, but it is recommended that students take Econ 80a and Econ 83a before Econ 82b. (Since most of the upper-level electives have Econ 80a and 83a as prerequisites, this sequencing gives students more flexibility in completing their upper-level electives.) Students must earn a grade of C- or higher in each course to continue with the major. A prospective major who receives a D+ or below must retake the course and will not be allowed to enroll in upper-level electives for which that course is a prerequisite until a C- or better has been attained. Students receiving less than a C- in Econ 83a must retake the course and earn a C- or better before enrolling in Econ 184b.

Other Brandeis statistics courses that can substitute for Econ 83a are discussed under Miscellaneous Issues for Econ Majors below.

**Econometrics.** Econ 184b (or Econ 185a) satisfies this requirement. Econ 184b is offered each semester, but it is not typically offered by the Summer School. A grade of C- or better is required. Students are encouraged to take Econ 184b soon after completing Econ 83a. Students who schedule long gaps between the two courses often struggle to relearn statistics while having to master more advanced material.

**Electives.** Students must take at least four additional semester courses. AT LEAST two must be “upper-level” electives, i.e., courses that have one or more of the 80-level theory courses as a prerequisite. In most cases, upper-level status can be inferred from the course number; “100-level” courses usually have 80-level prerequisites. But there are exceptions; Econ 122b (Economics of the Middle East) and Econ 175a (Introduction to the Economics of Development) are not upper-level electives, and new 100-level courses may be created in the future that do not have 80-level prerequisites. Any Economics course and any course cross-listed under Economics in the Bulletin can count toward the major, with a few exceptions. (Econ 92a (internship), Econ 93a (independent research), Econ 98 (independent study), Econ 99 (senior honors), and Econ 194 (research practicum) do NOT count toward the major. Bus 89b, the former internship course for Business and Economics, also does NOT count toward the major.) Appropriate IBS courses can qualify as lower-level or upper-level electives, but some IBS courses cannot be used as Economics electives. There is no “lower-level requirement” – that is, students are free to make all four of their electives “upper-level” if they choose. AT LEAST 3 of the 4 electives for the major must be courses that have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite. Note: The ECON, cross-listed BUS courses, and HSSP 104b have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite while the other cross-listed courses that may be counted as lower-level electives do not.

Students must earn at least a C- in three of the four electives. In other words, only one elective with a grade of D+, D, or D- may count toward the major.

**Foundational literacy requirements.** Students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2019 or later must satisfy the foundational literacy requirements.

Writing intensive (WI): by completing any WI-designated Econ course or Bus 47a, or by substituting another WI-designated social science course that teaches similar writing conventions with formal approval of the Undergraduate Advising Head.

Oral communication (OC): by completing any OC-designated Econ course, Bus 47a, or another OC-designated social science course.

Digital literacy (DL): by completing Econ 83a or Econ 184b.

Students must earn a grade of C- or higher in each of these courses. Note: Bus 47a is open only to students who are also Business majors.

**Honors thesis.** A student wishing to graduate with honors in Economics must successfully complete a Senior Honors Thesis. In order to undertake an Honors Thesis, the student must have a GPA of 3.50 or higher in their Brandeis Economics courses and have completed Econ 184b before the first semester of their final year, i.e., before starting the thesis. More information about the Senior Honors Program can be found on the Department website under [Undergraduate / Senior Honors Program](#).

### **Miscellaneous Issues for Econ Majors**

**Minimum GPA for majors.** Majors must achieve at least a 2.00 average in their Economics courses. If a student has taken more than ten Economics courses, we use the best ten grades to compute the average. Only Brandeis grades are averaged. (For example, for a student with a summer school course taken elsewhere, we would average the best nine Brandeis grades.) A student who fails a course can take it again; once the student passes the course, we count only the passing grade. Students may also retake courses they have passed. This is appropriate and advisable in cases where mastery of the course material is important for the achievement of the student's academic goals. If a student passes a course twice, we count the higher of the two grades. (Major GPAs are not reported in Workday and the Registrar's Office does not compute major GPAs except to enforce departmental GPA requirements.)

**Pass-fail.** A course with a P/F grade cannot be used to satisfy the requirements for the major or the minor. The one exception is that the calculus requirement can be satisfied by completing a calculus course with a pass/fail grade of P. A course with a P grade in Spring 2020 can also count toward major/minor requirements; regular pass/fail restrictions were suspended that semester as part of the University's COVID-19 response.

**Internship courses (Bus 89a and 89b, Int 89 and 92g, and Econ 92a), independent research (Econ 93a), independent studies (Econ 98), senior honors (Econ 99), and research practicums (Econ 194).** These courses do NOT count toward departmental requirements.

**Economics AP and transfer credits.** Students who arrive with AP credit in micro (4 or 5) or credit for Introductory Micro taken elsewhere can receive credit for Econ 10a and can complete the major with one fewer course. Students who arrive with AP credit in macro (4 or 5) or credit for Introductory Macro taken elsewhere can receive credit for Econ 20a and can complete the major with one fewer course. Students who arrive with credit for a one-semester Introduction to Economics course should consult the Undergraduate Advising Head regarding appropriate departmental credit.

**International exam credit.** Students who receive a 5 or better on the International Baccalaureate Economics Higher-Level exam; an A, B, or C on the A-Level Economics exam; or a 14 or better on the French Baccalaureate Economics exam can receive credit for both Econ 10a and 20a. More information is available [here](#). The University does not recognize O-Level, International Baccalaureate Standard Level, or other exams.

**Limit on departmental credit for courses taken elsewhere.** A student must take at least 5 of the 10 core and elective courses required for the Economics major at Brandeis or through an approved study abroad program.

**Statistics.** The two-semester sequence Math 36a and Math 36b may substitute for Econ 83a. Psychology majors may substitute Psyc 51a for Econ 83a, Politics majors may substitute Pol 52a for Econ 83a, and Biology majors may substitute Biol 51a for Econ 83a. However, Math 8a, the statistics classes offered by Business (Bus 1b, 51b, and 51a), and AP Statistics can NOT substitute for Econ 83a. Note: Students who have had a different statistics course, either at Brandeis or another university (common for transfer students), may not have had the coverage of regression that Econ 83a provides. In such cases, the student should be advised to get a syllabus for Econ 83a and attend the final (regression) section of that course.

Ideally, students will satisfy the statistics requirements for their majors by taking a single statistics course. Econ majors are encouraged to satisfy the Econ 83a requirement by taking Econ 83a (or Math 36a and 36b) unless they wish to take an equivalent statistics class in one of their other majors (Psyc 51a, Pol 52a, or Biol 51a).

**Finance courses.** Students are discouraged from taking Fin 103a (formerly Econ 71a and then Bus 71a) concurrently with or after completing Econ/Fin 171a. The material overlaps too much. Students planning to be Econ majors are advised to take only Econ/Fin 171a. Note: Fin 103a and Bus 71a do NOT count toward the Economics major or minor.

### **Useful Advice for Econ Majors**

**The 80-level theory courses.** If possible, majors should finish the introductory and 80-level theory courses by the end of junior year to allow time to take upper-level electives. (Students considering studying abroad in their junior year need to satisfy as many requirements as possible in the sophomore year.) Many students take two of the 80-level theory courses in the same semester, though this is not the norm. Those starting the major as juniors may need to take one or more of the 80-level courses in summer school.

**BA/MA program.** Many students are interested in the 5-year BA/MA program. For students in this program, their senior year is also the first year of the Lemberg MA program even though they are still undergraduates. They earn their BA in Economics at the end of the fourth year and a Lemberg master's degree in International Economics and Finance (MAief) at the end of the fifth year. More information about the BA/MA requirements is available on the IBS website (<https://www.brandeis.edu/global/academics/ma/ba-ma/index.html>).

There are two ways for students to gain admission to the BA/MA program:

1. When applying for admission to Brandeis, students can check a box to request admission to the BA/MA program. If admitted, they enter as International Business Scholars and can begin MA coursework in their senior year without having to complete a separate MA application provided they satisfy the criteria at <https://www.brandeis.edu/global/undergraduates/scholars.html>. The fact that a student has been admitted as an International Business Scholar is noted in the student's record in Workday.
2. Students who did not enter Brandeis as International Business Scholars can apply to the BA/MA program in their junior year. The BA/MA Admissions page (<https://www.brandeis.edu/global/academics/ma/ba-ma/admissions.html>) includes recommended course preparation and is therefore a useful reference for course planning.

**Study abroad.** Students interested in studying abroad for one or both semesters of their junior year should be advised to complete as many of the 80-level courses as possible prior to studying abroad. This recommendation is based on the following considerations. If the student has already completed the 80-level courses, the student will be able to take greatest advantage of the Economics classes offered abroad, including upper-level elective offerings. And even if the student does not take any upper-level electives while abroad, there will still be time to satisfy the upper-level elective requirement after the student returns to Brandeis. Students do sometimes take 80-level courses while abroad. However, courses equivalent to the 80-level courses are not offered in all programs and students who

take 80-level courses abroad miss out on the opportunity to take electives not offered at Brandeis or electives that might better complement their study abroad experience. For example, a student taking statistics at the Universidad Carlos III De Madrid might forego the opportunity to take Regional and Urban Economics or The Spanish Economy.

While classes with the prerequisites necessary to count as upper-level electives were offered primarily at UK or British Commonwealth universities in the past, more and more study abroad programs offer students the opportunity to take upper-level electives. However, many study abroad programs only offer lower-level electives.

**IF YOU LEARN THAT A STUDENT IS PLANNING TO GO ABROAD OR TO TAKE COURSES (INCLUDING SUMMER COURSES) AT AN INSTITUTION OTHER THAN BRANDEIS, ASK THE STUDENT TO CONTACT THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING HEAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Students interest in the [Brandeis in Copenhagen](#) (BiC) program should be advised to plan their schedules so that they will be able to take at least two of the classes offered in the program that summer, e.g., saving Econ 80a and Econ 57a to take in the BiC program.

***Major/minor credit for courses taken elsewhere (including study abroad).*** Departmental credit for courses taken elsewhere (other than credit for AP or international exams) is determined by the Undergraduate Advising Head. Students should be advised to consult the Undergraduate Advising Head regarding what departmental credit, if any, they can expect to receive. A student must also submit the appropriate form to claim departmental credit. The forms can be found at <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/forms/transfer-credit.html>. For summer classes taken elsewhere, the relevant form can be submitted prior to taking the class (recommended). In other cases, the form is submitted after the student has completed the class.

***Monitoring progress through the major/minor.*** Students and their advisors can monitor progress through the Econ major/minor using the degree audit in Workday (Academics / Academic Progress). Any discrepancies between what is recorded in the degree audit and the departmental credit the student or advisor thinks the student has earned should be brought to the attention of the Undergraduate Advising Head for resolution. The information reported in the degree audit is used by all the student's advisors to track progress through the major/minor and is what the Registrar's Office goes by in awarding degrees, etc., so it is important that this information be complete and accurate.

### **The Economics Minor**

The requirements for the Economics minor are two introductory courses and four electives for students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2020 or later / three electives for students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020. 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 can substitute for Econ 10a.)

For students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2020 or later, AT LEAST 3 of the 4 electives for the minor must be courses that have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite. For students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020, all 3 electives for the minor must be courses that have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite. Note: The ECON, cross-listed BUS courses, and HSSP 104b have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite while the other cross-listed courses that may be counted as electives do not. (Bus 89a and 89b, Int 89 and 92g, and Econ 25a, 26b, 92a, 93a, 98, 99, and 194 do NOT count as electives for the minor.)

Students wishing to complete the Economics minor can satisfy the introductory course requirements with appropriate AP or international exam credit, just as they can for the major. Students wishing to use other Brandeis courses or courses taken elsewhere to satisfy the requirements of the minor must get the approval of the Undergraduate Advising Head.



To complete the Economics minor, students must attain a grade of C or better in both introductory courses and a grade of C- or better in each of the electives. Students must also achieve a GPA of 2.00 or higher in the courses that constitute their Economics minor.

### **The Mechanics of Declaring a Major or Minor**

As mentioned in the introduction, there are two ways a student can declare a major or a minor. Students may fill out the declaration form with the Undergraduate Advising Head or they may fill out the form with the faculty member they have asked to be their advisor.

In the latter case, the student will come to you with a Major / Minor Change Request Form. (Students can get this form from the Economics Office, from Academic Services, or from the Registrar's [website](#). The pdf is a fillable form.) The purposes of this form are to give the student a sense of the scope of the program the student is declaring and to help the student in planning the remaining semesters at Brandeis. The student lists on this form any Economics (or cross-listed) courses the student has already taken, is currently taking, or is planning to take in the next semester. For majors, how the calculus requirement has been or will be fulfilled should also be noted. If this set of courses falls short of satisfying the requirements for the major or minor, there are two choices as to how to proceed:

1. The student can add more courses to the form until it constitutes a course of study that will completely satisfy the requirements for the program or
2. The advisor may indicate in the "Comments" section of the form how many and what types of additional courses are needed to complete the program. For example, if a sophomore is declaring a major, and the form lists only Econ 10a, 20a, 80a, 83a, and AP Calculus, you would indicate under "Comments" that the student must also take Econ 82b, 184b, two upper-level electives, two other electives of any type, and note the writing intensive and oral communications requirements.

If choice (1) is made, the student is not bound by the specific courses written on the form and can substitute different electives in the future without coming back to you to redo the form. Regardless of which choice is made, it is your job as advisor to inform the student of all the requirements involved in the program that the student is declaring. For example, if a major is being declared, make sure the student is told which courses are upper-level electives and is told of the "Miscellaneous Issues" described on page 4 of this memo.

If the student claims AP micro or macro or international exam credit, indicate that in the "Comments" section of the form. Formal credit for this work is given by the Registrar. It is not the advisor's responsibility to determine whether the student's claim is true. All you are saying by signing the Major / Minor Change Request Form with this Comment is that, if what the student claims is true, the student has satisfied that portion of our requirements. Otherwise, exemption from course requirements for work done elsewhere (e.g., credit for college work completed prior to transferring to Brandeis, non-Brandeis summer courses, or study abroad courses) can be granted only by the Undergraduate Advising Head. If a student comes to you wishing to declare the major and states an intention to study abroad or take summer courses elsewhere IN THE FUTURE, the form should be filled out as if those plans will fall through (that is, the form should indicate the full set of ten Brandeis Economics courses and the calculus requirement). If a student who comes to you wishing to declare says courses ALREADY completed at other institutions should count toward the major or minor, please send the student to the Undergraduate Advising Head right away. **DO NOT SIGN A MAJOR / MINOR CHANGE REQUEST FORM CONTAINING COURSES TAKEN AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS UNLESS THE STUDENT HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR THOSE COURSES.** Once you and the student have devised a compliant program, sign the form and ask the student to bring the form to the Undergraduate Advising Head or email the form to the Undergraduate Advising Head.

In either case, the department will add a pdf of the form to the student's record in Workday. The form can be found on the History page of the student's record.

### **The Business Minor**

The Business minor consists of six courses, one of which is Econ 2a or 10a. A separate Major / Minor Change Request Form must be completed for the Business minor. Students who wish to declare a Business minor should see Pin-Lun Lee.

For non-Economics students, the Business minor is relatively straightforward. For Economics majors, things are a little trickier. They may double count no more than two courses (one of which is Econ 2a or 10a). This means that the Economics major/Business minor combination requires a total of 15 distinct courses (including calculus), four more than the Economics major alone and 2 fewer than the 17 that would be required for both programs considered separately.

Students wishing to combine an Economics minor and a Business minor may also double count no more than two courses. For such students, Business double counts Econ 2a or 10a with the Business minor. For students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2020 or later, Bus 10a will count as an elective for the Econ minor. For students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020, no Business courses can double count as electives for the Economics minor if the student is also a Business minor. A total of 10 courses are required to complete both minors.

### **The Business Major**

The Business major consists of Econ 2a or 10a plus 12 other semester courses. A separate Major / Minor Change Request Form must be completed for the Business major. Students who wish to apply for a Business major should see Hagit Weihs.

For students wishing to combine an Economics major and Business major, at most two courses (besides Econ 2a or 10a) can double count for the two majors as follows: Bus 10a (required for the Business major) will count as a lower-level elective for Economics and Econ 20a (required for the Economics major) will count as a Business elective. In addition, Econ 83a exempts Business majors from Bus 51a, Econ/Fin 171a exempts Business majors from Fin 103a, and Bus 47a satisfies the writing intensive and oral communications requirements for the Econ major.

Students wishing to combine a Business major and Economics minor are also subject to additional restrictions. They can double count no more than two courses (besides Econ 2a or 10a) for the major and minor. For students who entered Brandeis in Fall 2020 or later, Bus 10a will count as an elective for the Econ minor. For students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020, no Business courses can double count as electives for the Economics minor if the student is also a Business major.

### **The Finance Minor**

The Finance minor is described in the Business entry of the Bulletin. Business and Economics majors and minors may double count only two courses toward the Finance minor. [The double counting requirements are in the process of being clarified and will be updated here when finalized.]

### **Internships**

Many Economics and Business students choose to complete internships either during an academic semester or during a summer, normally after at least two years at Brandeis. Internship opportunities are described at <https://www.brandeis.edu/hiatt/jobs-internships>. In the past, most Economics majors and minors interested in getting credit for an internship enrolled in the 2-credit [Bus 89b](#) class. (Bus 89b replaced the earlier 4-credit Bus 89a.) Since Bus 89b is no longer offered, Econ students should enroll in [Int 89](#) (2-credit) for semester internships or [Int 92g](#) (1-credit) for summer internships. (The summer school course requires payment of a small amount of tuition). Interested students should consult Jon Schlesinger in the Hiatt Career Center for further information.



Internship classes do not provide credit toward the ECON major or minor but do earn numerical credit toward the 128 credits required for graduation.

There are two additional ways students can get academic credit for an internship. (1) A student who studies abroad in a program that has a supervised internship as part of the curriculum can receive credit. (2) Economics majors who are undertaking interdepartmental programs with economics connections (e.g., Legal Studies, Environmental Studies) and are doing an internship related to economics to fulfill the requirements of the program, may enroll in Econ 92a. Like Bus 89a and 89b and Int 89 and 92g, Econ 92a does not provide credit toward the ECON major or minor, but it does count as one of a student's thirty-two courses. (NOTE: Econ 92a is open to INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY.) Requests to enroll in Econ 92a must be approved by the Undergraduate Advising Head.

### **Consistency and a Paper Trail**

As a large department with decentralized advising, it is critical that we 1) administer rules consistently and 2) retain documentary evidence of any approvals or exceptions we grant. The first goal will be advanced if everyone takes seriously the task of understanding both the formal rules and the logic behind them so that exceptions granted to the normal rules will make some sense. Remember that students talk to one another and, if any of us makes an ill-considered decision at variance with our general system, we can expect a lot of petitions from others who will want the same deal. Difficult cases should be discussed with the Undergraduate Advising Head, whose role is both to provide guidance and to be the repository for our "case law." If necessary, the Undergraduate Advising Head will consult other members of the department to make sure we remain consistent with our past practice.

On the paper trail, we want to avoid students telling us, long after one or another of us has forgotten the deal, that Professor X said I could do this or that. Your basic stance should be: If it isn't in an email from me or on a piece of paper with my signature, it didn't happen! And students should be told this, repeatedly. This means that we will need to consider, from time to time, whether any additional approval forms are required.

Occasionally, you will encounter a student who won't take "No!" for an answer. You should send the student to the Undergraduate Advising Head rather than say "Yes!" just to get the student out of your office. In the long run this should produce fewer problems.

### **Advising about Non-Departmental Issues**

As an advisor you are expected to know something about general University programs, requirements, and procedures. Most of this is laid out in the Bulletin. If a student asks you a question that you don't know the answer to, try to find out the answer and then you will know next time. However, when in doubt, it is best to refer students to their advisors in Academic Services. Giving incorrect advice can create problems for students since our advice is not binding on the University. Advisors in Academic Services have greater experience and can make binding decisions for particular cases. You may also get questions about courses in other departments. Every department has an Undergraduate Advising Head. Contact that department's Undergraduate Advising Head to request assistance or refer the student to the appropriate Undergraduate Advising Head.

You should be alert for students who appear to be having difficulties handling academic or personal issues so that we can get them timely assistance. If you have concerns about a student's academic performance, contact the student's [advisor in Academic Services](#) or file an [Academic Performance Report](#). For other non-emergency concerns, fill out an [I Care Form](#). More comprehensive lists of campus resources for students are available [here](#).

## **NON-ECONOMICS COURSES THAT COUNT AS ECONOMICS ELECTIVES**

Some courses offered by other departments and graduate programs can count as electives for the Economics major or minor. Not all these courses have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite. Only one course that does not have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite can count toward the major or toward the minor for students who entered

Brandeis in Fall 2020 or later. For students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020, a course can count as an elective for the minor only if it has Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite. Information is included below to allow you to determine whether and how a particular course will count for an advisee. Each course is considered a lower-level elective, unless otherwise noted.

### **Cross-Listed Courses**

Currently, the cross-listed courses are:

ANTH 163b	Economies and Culture
BUS 6a	Financial Accounting (Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite)
BUS 10a	Business Fundamentals (Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite)
ENGR 22b	Engineering a Circular Economy
HIST 114b	Histories of American Capitalism
HS 104b	American Health Care
HS 110a	Labor, Work, and Inequality
HSSP 104b	Health Economics (Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite)
POL 173b	U.S. Foreign Economic Policy

ECON 261a	Empirical Analysis of Trade Policy (upper-level)
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In addition, there are classes that Economics cross listed that are no longer offered. You may see these courses in student degree audits.

AAAS 60a	Economics of Third World Hunger
BUS 118b	Corporate Finance: European Case Studies (Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite)
ENG 133b	Imagining Money: Literature and Economics from Barter to Bitcoin
ENVS 100b	GIS Methods
LGLS 127b	International Economic Law (Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite)
POL 172b	International Political Economy

### **Other Non-Departmental Courses**

The following non-departmental courses qualify for elective credit for the Economics major or minor. Except for the Lemberg courses (listed below), these courses do not automatically show up in a student's degree audit in Workday. The student must petition to receive departmental credit or the Undergraduate Advising Head must file a petition on the student's behalf. The course will appear in the student's degree audit only after the petition is approved and the course has been successfully completed. The online petition can be found on the Registrar's website (<http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/forms/major-minor.html>, last item).

***Undergraduate Business Courses.*** In addition to the formally cross-listed courses, the Department counts the following courses as upper-level electives.

FIN 104a	Corporate Finance (formerly BUS 117a)
BUS 180a	The Financial System

***Brandeis International Business School (BIBS) Courses.*** Prior to registration each semester, the Economics Department distributes a newsletter or registration memo that includes a list of BIBS classes with spaces for undergraduates. Students wishing to enroll in BIBS courses must get a consent code from Leslie. Many BIBS courses are taught as modules (2-credit half-semester courses); the Undergraduate Advising Head can approve 2 appropriate modules as a single economics elective. Note: As for undergraduate courses, students who wish to enroll in BIBS courses must satisfy the prerequisites for those courses.

Some BIBS courses are closed to undergraduates. As noted below, the Lemberg courses, which overlap significantly with upper-level Economics courses, are NOT open to undergraduates. Similarly, if comparable

graduate and undergraduate courses are offered, undergraduates should take the undergraduate course. For example, undergraduate students should take Econ 80a rather than Econ 207a and Econ 184b rather than Econ 213a. Only undergraduates who have formally entered the BA/MA program should take Econ 207a and Econ 213a rather than the corresponding undergraduate courses.

Some BIBS courses do NOT count as Economics electives. Courses that are predominantly pre-professional and lack significant economic content will not count. If you or your advisee has a question about whether a specific BIBS course counts (other than those listed specifically in this section of the memo), contact the Undergraduate Advising Head.

**PhD Courses.** Any 300-level Econ course counts and counts as an UPPER-LEVEL elective. The PhD courses most often taken by undergraduates are Econ 301a, 302a, 303a, and 304a.

**Lemberg Courses.** Econ 202a, Econ 260a, Fin 203a, and Fin 204a are Lemberg “core” courses that are equivalent in level and content to Economics UPPER-LEVEL electives. Undergraduates who are NOT in the Lemberg program cannot take these courses and must take the corresponding undergraduate courses instead (Econ 161a, Econ 160a, Econ/Fin 171a, and Fin 104a, respectively). For BA/MA students, these Lemberg courses DO COUNT toward the Economics UPPER-LEVEL elective requirement.

**Heller School.** In addition to the two cross-listed Heller School undergraduate courses, we accept the following graduate courses as electives:

HS 236a	International Health Systems and Development	LLE	4-credit
HS 237f	Applied Cost-Benefit Analysis for Development Practitioners	LLE	2-credit
HS 314f	Race and Stratification in the US Economy	ULE	2-credit
HS 367a	Working with National Data Sets to Inform Policy Analysis and Recommendations	ULE	4-credit
HS 419f	Labor Economics as Applied to Social Policy	ULE	2-credit
HS 422f	Cost-effectiveness	LLE	2-credit
HS 519a	Health Economics	LLE	4-credit
HS 572a	Economics of Behavioral Health	LLE	4-credit

In the table, LLE stands for lower-level elective and ULE for upper-level elective. All the lower-level elective classes are considered to have an Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a prerequisite. Two modules (2-credit classes) can be combined to count as one Econ elective.