

Brandeis University
Department of Economics

Advising Summary

The Economics Major

The Economics major consists of eleven semester courses plus two 2-credit foundational literacy practicums (Econ 25a and 26b). The eleven semester courses include six core courses (two introductory courses and four intermediate theory courses (Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, and 184b)), four electives, and calculus. 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.)

A student must satisfy the calculus requirement prior to enrolling in Econ 80a, 82b, 83a, or 184b. (Details about the calculus requirement can be found on pages 2-3 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 count as lower-level electives. A list of these courses is found on page 10 of the longer advising memo. However, Econ 92, 98, 99, and 194 cannot be counted toward the major. Finally, at least 3 of the 4 electives for the major must have Econ 2a, 10a, or 20a as a prerequisite.

Students who enter Brandeis in Fall 2019 or later must fulfill writing intensive, oral communication, and digital literacy requirements within each major. The writing intensive requirement will be satisfied by a 2-credit practicum (Econ 26b) taken alongside or after Econ 82b. The oral communication requirement will be satisfied by a 2-credit practicum (Econ 25a) taken alongside or after Econ 80a. Economics majors will satisfy the digital literacy requirement, along with the University's quantitative reasoning requirement, by completing Econ 83a or 184b.

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 184b. 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 pages 3-4 of the longer advising memo.

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 may be substituted 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. (Econ 92, 98, 99, and 194 do NOT count as electives 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. Students must also achieve a GPA of 2.00 or higher in the courses that constitute their Economics 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 10 distinct courses. They would need four additional courses to finish the Business minor and three distinct electives to finish the Economics minor. For students who entered Brandeis before Fall 2020 who are Economics and Business double minors, 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 11 other courses. Besides Econ 2a or 10a, 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 20a (required for the Economics major) will count as a Business elective. In addition, completing Econ 83a exempts students from the Business statistics requirement and completing Econ 171a exempts students from having to take Bus 71a.

Combining the Economics Minor and the Business Major

Besides Econ 2a or 10a, at most two other courses can be double counted. As for double majors, completing Econ 83a exempts students from the Business statistics requirement and completing Econ 171a exempts students from having to take Bus 71a. 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.

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) can receive credit for Econ 10a. The same is true for students who have transfer credit for Introductory Microeconomics.
3. Students who arrive with AP credit in macro (4 or 5) can receive credit for Econ 20a. The same is true for students who have transfer credit for Introductory Macroeconomics.
4. A few students arrive at Brandeis with international exam credit for Econ 10a and 20a. 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. The University does not recognize O-level or International Baccalaureate Standard 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.**