

**The Department of Economics
Social Sciences Element**

**General Education Program
Pacific Lutheran University**

Framing Language and Program Goals

Economics is the study of how people establish social arrangements for producing and distributing goods and services to sustain and enhance human life. Its main objective is to determine an efficient use of limited economic resources so that people receive the maximum benefit at the lowest cost. The economics discipline embraces a body of techniques and conceptual tools that are useful for understanding and analyzing our complex economic system.

Students will engage in the economic way of thinking from the perspectives of individual firms, consumers, and government policy makers. A significant portion of your undergraduate economics training will address policy options available to government officials seeking solutions to contemporary economics problems including environmental degradation, market distortions and issues around globalization. Economics majors possess an enhanced ability to analyze and evaluate current economic and social issues using their understanding of economic principles and methodologies developed in the major.

General Education Element Description

Investigating Human Behavior, Culture, and Institutions

The social sciences investigate individual and collective human behavior, and the history, development and variation of human culture and institutions. To assure exposure to a wide variety of social science concepts, theories, and methods, students must select at least two courses chosen from different disciplines.

Economics: studies human behavior, institutions, and policies with the objective of using limited resources efficiently.

More specifically, economics is a social science that analyzes how humans as individuals and as societies make choices about how to produce and distribute goods and services from limited resources to sustain and enhance human wellbeing. The analytical tools of economics are well suited for understanding a wide range of historical and contemporary social and environmental issues and evaluating policy options used to deal with them.

General Education Element Learning Outcomes

Most students take Econ 101, 102, or 111 to meet general education requirements. The following learning outcomes apply to all 100-level economics courses.

The student will:

- understand economic concepts including opportunity cost, scarcity, constraints, markets, comparative advantage;
- understand basic economic institutions of a modern society;
- have basic awareness of economic measures;

- have the ability to manipulate and interpret graphical models;
- have the ability to interpret changes in economic measures;
- have the ability to apply appropriate economic models to specific scenarios; and
- have the ability to predict responses to changes in economic circumstances.

Alignment to the ILO's

Critical Reflection

- Evaluate assumptions and consequences of different perspectives in assessing possible solutions to problems.

Valuing

- Approach one's commitments with a high level of personal responsibility and professional accountability.

Multiple Frameworks

- Identify issues and problems facing people in every culture (including one's own), seeking constructive strategies for addressing them.