Economics is the study of how individuals and societies choose to use limited resources for production of goods and services and how they distribute them for current and future consumption. Economics is divided into two major areas, macroeconomics and microeconomics. Macroeconomics studies decision-making at the national level. Macroeconomics topics include Gross Domestic Product, unemployment and inflation. Microeconomics studies decision-making at the individual, household, firm, industry and government level. Microeconomic topics include theory of the firm and consumer behavior.

Courses offered by the Economics Department satisfy general education requirements at American River College. In addition, economics courses provide students with essential tools to analyze contemporary national and international economic issues.

Career Opportunities

A major in economics leads to several career paths in the public and private sector. These include jobs in management, sales, banking, healthcare industry, utility industry, consulting, statistical analysis, international finance, education, foreign service and many others. An undergraduate degree or coursework in economics is essential for those wishing to pursue career paths in law, MBA, political science and public administration. Elective coursework in areas such as business, statistics, computer science, sociology, political science, environmental science and international studies increase the marketability of economics majors to potential employers.

Social Science

Requirements for Degree Major

Students must complete 18 units of transfer-level work in addition to other graduation requirements. Courses taken must be in at least four of the following areas: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology (except Psychology 335), and Sociology. See ARC graduation requirements.