Economics

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 and other community colleges, the CSU system and the UC system. 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.

ECON 302  Principles of Macroeconomics  3 Units
Formerly: ECON 1A
Prerequisite: None
Advisory: MATH 100; ENGW 102 or ENGW 103, ENGRD 116 or ESLR 320, ESLW 320; or placement through assessment process.
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course, an introduction to macroeconomics, is concerned with the economic well being of the national economy. Topics covered include supply, demand, aggregate supply, aggregate demand, equilibrium, money, banking, taxation, inflation, employment, and economic growth. (CAN ECON 2); AA/AS area 3C; CSU area D3; IGETC area 4.

ECON 304  Principles of Microeconomics  3 Units
Formerly: ECON 1B
Prerequisite: None
Advisory: ENGW 102 or ENGW 103, ENGRD 116 or ESLR 320, ESLW 320; MATH 120; or placement through assessment process.
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course, an introduction to microeconomics, is concerned with individuals and business firms and how they interact in the marketplace to determine price, output, employment and efficient utilization of economic resources. International economic principles will also be discussed. Topics covered include marginal utility; production and resource allocation under conditions of competition, monopoly and oligopoly; monopolistic competition; antitrust and labor economics; and international trade and finance. (CAN ECON 4) AA/AS area 3C; CSU area D3; IGETC area 4.

ECON 320  Concepts in Personal Finance (Same as Business 320)  3 Units
Formerly: ECON 14
Prerequisite: None
Advisory: ENGW 102 or ENGW 103, ENGRD 116 or ESLR 320, ESLW 320; BUS 105; or placement through assessment process.
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is designed to assist individuals to analyze their financial affairs for lifelong decision making. Elements and conceptual basis of financial planning and the analysis and decision making in areas of budgeting, taxes, borrowing, money management, insurance, investments, and retirement will be examined with an emphasis on principles to develop students’ economic decision making. Not open to student who have completed Business 320. AA/AS area 3C or 3E; CSU area D3.