Economics emphasizes critical thinking and the understanding of basic economic principles. Our B.A. is the least quantitative of the three economics majors, and provides excellent preparation for students interested in working immediately after graduation or considering law school. Our B.A. - Quantitative Emphasis adds basic quantitative training (in calculus, linear algebra, and econometrics) and best suits students considering a career in field research or graduate work in business administration. And our B.S. is for students interested in graduate study in economics or a related career. The strong quantitative component in this degree emphasizes multivariate calculus, linear algebra, and econometrics.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Economics at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
“Economics is a tool to look at public policy from a more objective view,” says Dasom Ham, an undergraduate economics major at the University of Minnesota. After three years at the University, Ham is ready to pursue a PhD in economics and influence public policy.

Read more about Dasom's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Amy Ko recently completed her academic journey with the University of Minnesota and embarked on her professional journey with them, too. Thanks to her impressive education, passion for data science, and determination for success, Ko is able to bring valuable experience and enthusiasm for analytics to her new career.

Read more about Amy’s story.

Student Experiences
Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Learning Abroad Options in Economics: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

“Nothing else in your college experience will expand your horizons—truly educate you—as much as a year of study abroad. See me if in doubt; go if you can.”
—Ed Foster, Professor Emeritus, Department of Economics

From the beginning of his academic career, economics senior Kazimier Smith has been able to dig in to research. “I think a lot of times research ideas come from places you wouldn't think they come from,” he says.

Read more about Kazimier's story, and learn more about study abroad for Economics majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

- Economics Student Organization (ESO)
- Economics Mentorship Program
Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

The Department of Economics and Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute are seeking applicants on a rolling basis for paid undergraduate research opportunities. A very limited number of students will be selected to assist faculty with their ongoing research endeavors.

Meet Our Faculty

The University of Minnesota was proud to present Professor Anne Krueger, former chief economist at the World Bank, with an honorary degree for her invaluable contribution to economics. Her mentorship has inspired many students.

Read more about Professor Krueger's work.

Meet Our Alumni

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate
yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Finance & Risk Management Insurance
Applied Economics
Mathematics

Associated Careers


Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information
TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

- Did you know? CLA Transfer Advising has created an official "transfer guide" for a number of degree programs, including Economics, to help you determine which credits will transfer, and how.

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments