

Pursuing an Honours Degree in Economics

Dr. Rob Oxoby
Professor and Department Head
Department of Economics

Why pursue an honours degree?

- More in-depth analysis of economic problems and issues
- Enhanced methods
- Community within the Department
- Greater preparation for your career
- Preparation for graduate school

Why pursue an honours degree?

- More advanced tools and methods permit deeper understanding of problems
 - Economics and the environment
 - Economics and innovation policy
 - Behavioural economics
- More rigorous analysis permits greater applicability to implementation
 - Policy analysis and implementation
 - Entrepreneurship and innovation

Economics at UoC



Our department is a *vibrant hub* of economic scholarship

- our faculty publish in top journals and are regularly recognized for their research contributions
- Our faculty are consulted for advice on economic policy issues by NGOs, governments and companies

Honours program is an opportunity to interact with economists on the research frontier

- Energy and environmental economics
- Regulatory economics and industrial organization
- Health economics
- Behavioral economics
- Trade

Honours: Part of the community

Our undergraduate program is home to approximately 750 majors in economics

- Excellent opportunity to differentiate yourself
- You signal both motivations and skills

Self-select into a community of individuals with similar interests and motivations

Enhanced learning experience (small groups, complementary backgrounds: finance, political science, maths, statistics, psychology)

- Closer interaction with academics, designated office space

Honours: Tools and methods

Economic Theory

- Theory is a natural starting point, before testing models empirically
- Learn the formal language that can be applied to solve problems in finance, public policy, environment regulations, design of international treaties etc.

Statistics and Econometrics

- Test predictions using data
- Measure the magnitude of responses
- Help to improve existing theory frameworks

Honours: Careers

Choose specialized courses that build your expertise in finance, regulatory economics, consulting

Signal both your motivation to be an expert and your enhanced skills

Many successful careers of our BA Honours graduates

- Bank of Canada
- Competition Bureau
- Market Surveillance Administrator
- National Energy Board
- Alberta Electric System Operator
- Enbridge
- Power Advisory LLC
- Deetken Insight
- Twitter
- Brookfield
- City of Calgary
- Utilities Consumer Advocate
- ATB Financial
- WestJet
- Alberta Utilities Commission
- TransAlta

Honours: Graduate school

Master degree can be completed in one year

- Opens a lot of opportunities
- Increased salary opportunities

Our graduates are valued by best grad programs in Canada (UBC, Toronto, Queen's, Western, UoC)

- All major Canadian schools
- LSE, University College London, University of Geneva, Barcelona grad school of economics

PRE-HONOURS INFORMATION SESSION

Dr. Lucia Vojtassak
Associate Professor (Teaching)
Undergraduate Program Director
January 29, 2024

Objectives for an Economics Major

Economist Toolbox

- Economic theory
 - Economics is a theoretical science
 - Deduce how choices will be made based on self interest.
 - Importance of incentives arises because of scarcity.
- Statistics and econometrics
 - Test predictions using data and statistical analysis
 - Measure magnitude of responses

... Learning Objectives

- Apply theory and econometrics to create new knowledge
 - Research is problem solving
 - Communicate results
- Knowledge base
 - When and why markets work well
 - When and why government intervention is required
 - Understanding of economic history and effects of different institutions

Honours vs. the Traditional Major

- **More economics!**
 - **20 to 24** ECON courses vs. **14 to 20** ECON courses
 - 60 to 72 units vs. 42 to 60 units
- **Specialized courses**
 - Statistics and econometrics
 - Mathematical economics
 - Theory and application
- **Enhanced technical training**
 - Analytical rigour, modelling, mathematical tools, and econometric knowledge and ability, sophistication and ability of economic reasoning

Deeper into Honours Courses

- **Mathematics and statistics**
 - MATH 211
 - ECON 387 and ECON 389 (mathematical economics)
 - ECON 495 and ECON 497 (econometrics)
- **Theory**
 - ECON 557 and ECON 559
- **Application**
 - More 400- and 500-level courses (at least 7 courses versus 4 courses)
- **More in-depth specialization in economics**

Honours Sequencing

Very important — economics is a **craft** learned **over time**

In a perfect world

Year 2

MATH 211

Year 3

ECON 387 Fall
ECON 389 Winter

Year 4

ECON 557 Fall
ECON 559 Winter

Year 3 or 4

ECON 495 → ECON 497

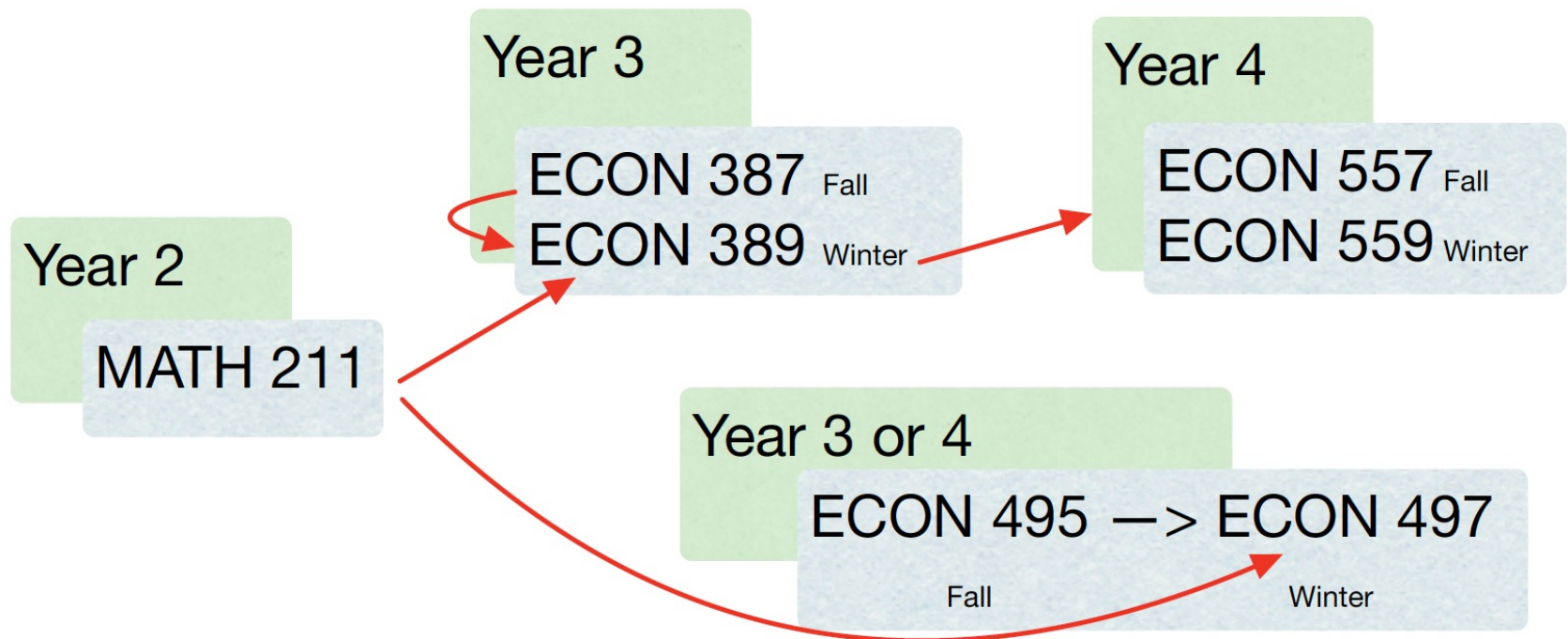
Fall

Winter

Honours Sequencing

Very important — economics is a **craft** learned **over time**

In a perfect world



Honours Sequencing

Very important — economics is a **craft** learned **over time**

When world is not perfect

All in one year

Fall

MATH 211
ECON 387
ECON 557
ECON 495

Winter

ECON 389
ECON 559
ECON 497

Honours Admission

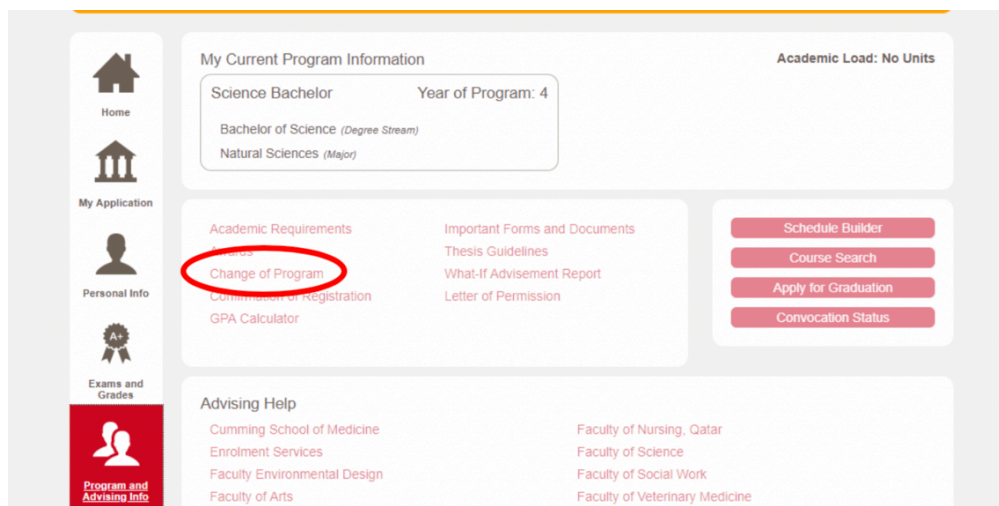
- Complete at least **10 courses**
- Apply via your Student Centre account by **February 1**
- If you want to apply **after February 1**, speak with ASC
- Attain and maintain a **GPA of 3.3+**
 - **Admission GPA:** calculated using your **last 20 courses**
 - or from **10 to 20** courses, if you haven't completed **20** yet
 - **Continuing GPA:** maintain a **GPA of 3.3+**
 - which will be calculated cumulatively after the winter term using your **spring, summer, fall, and winter grades**
- In your last year, you can apply for **late entry** to the honours program when you apply for convocation if you've satisfied all of the requirements.

Imperfect World and Admission

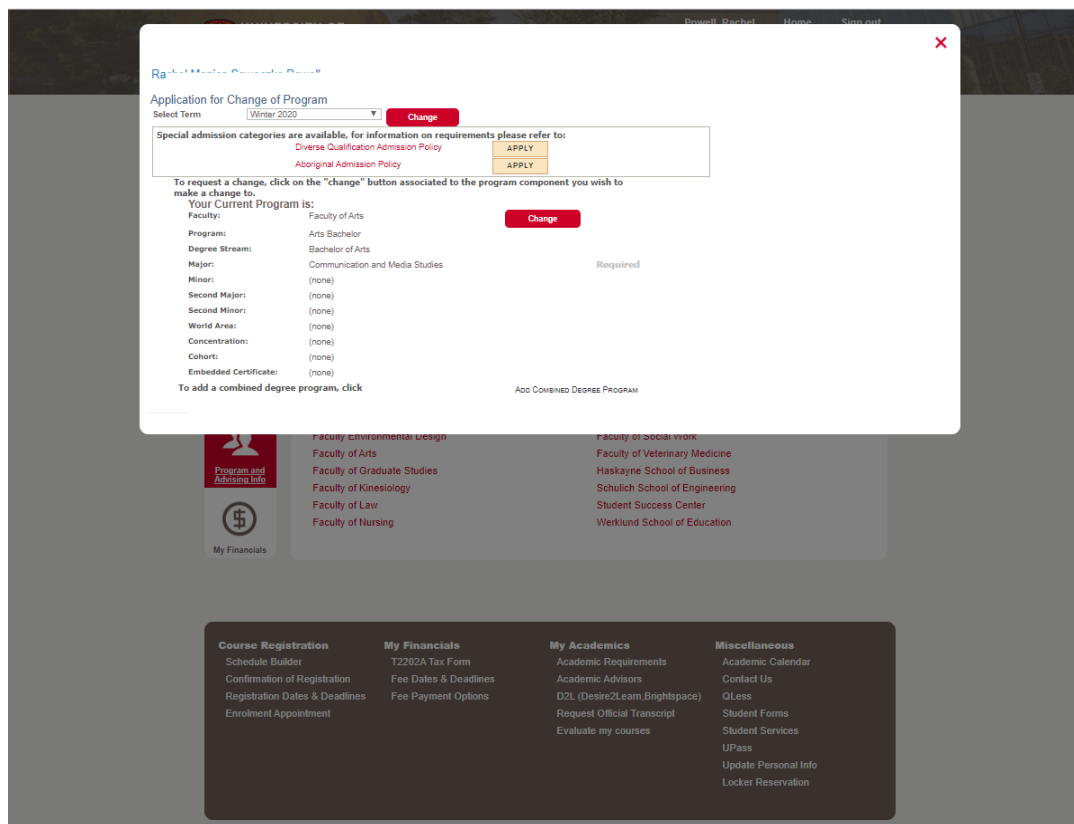
- Majors can take honours courses
- No thesis requirement.
- Student can complete honours courses without being in the honours program.
- GPA requirement met at end of Winter term but not at the end of Fall term.
- In Econ 559 expect to make GPA requirements, then apply for honours at, or before, COP deadline of February 1.
- Application will be held depending on academic performance in Winter term.

Change of Program

1. In your Student Centre, under the "Program and Advising Info" header, select the "Change of Program" link.



2. Click the **change** button associated with the program component you wish to change or click the **Add Combined Degree Program** link to add a combined degree.



Honours Program: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

OBJECTIVE of ECON 497, Econ 557 and 559:

- to act as bridge courses between intermediate theory and undergraduate econometrics and first year graduate courses
- should — and traditionally have — given our students a **MARKED** competitive advantage in graduate programs
 - Recruited and coveted by the best Canadian graduate programs
 - The claim we aspire to make with 100% confidence:

Students with A grades in our honours micro theory, macro theory, and econometric courses can go on to excel in graduate school, not only surviving but thriving in the best graduate programs in Canada (i.e., University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and Queen's U)

Honours Program: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- ECON 497, 557, and 559 are more difficult than other 400– and 500– level courses. While it is very important that the grades at the top of the distribution send signals to graduate schools, the grades at the bottom of the distribution can, and should, reflect effort as well as achievement.
- Instructors of these courses should endeavour to provide an experience in these courses that nurtures, encourages, develops, and prepares our honours students for graduate school.

To Learn More

- Check out the advising on ECON website
- Check out the UCalgary academic calendar
- Email Academic Program Specialist
 - econundergrad@ucalgary.ca
 - SS454
- Email Undergraduate Director
 - [Dr. Lucia Vojtassak](#)
 - SS336

Honours Student Panel

• Current Honours Students

Austin Nickel

4th year honours
BComm FNCE major

Mitch Tuchscherer

4th year honours

• Honours Alumni

Katie Copeland

combined degree in
ECON & General Math
Principal at Deetken

Jessica Liu

combined degree in
ECON & Computer Science
Senior consultant at Power Advisory

Jacob Graham

MA at UBC
Impact Canada
Instructor Dpt of Economics

Mathew Lloyd

current MA student at UofC
combined degree in ECON &
Math & Data Science Minor