



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Pursuing an Honours Degree in Economics

Dr. Aidan Hollis
Professor and Department Head
Department of Economics

Why pursue an Honours degree?

- You like an intellectual challenge!
 - More in-depth analysis of economic problems and issues
 - Enhanced methods
- You like being with smart people!
 - Community within the Department
- You want to be well equipped for an interesting career!
 - You get skills that employers value
- You want to do a graduate degree in economics
 - You get the training to get admitted, get funded and succeed

Intellectual challenge

- 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
 - Money and banking

Honours: Being with smart people

Join a community of individuals who are interested in challenging themselves and are ambitious

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

— Closer interaction with academics, designated office space

Small classes and meaningful connection with professors

Honours: Career advantages

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

Masters degree can be completed in one year

- Opens a lot of opportunities
- Increased salary opportunities

Our graduates are valued by and succeed in best grad programs in Canada (Calgary, UBC, Toronto, Queens, Western)

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



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PRE-HONOURS INFORMATION SESSION

Dr. Lucia Vojtassak

Associate Professor (Teaching)

Undergraduate Program Director

January 27, 2025

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

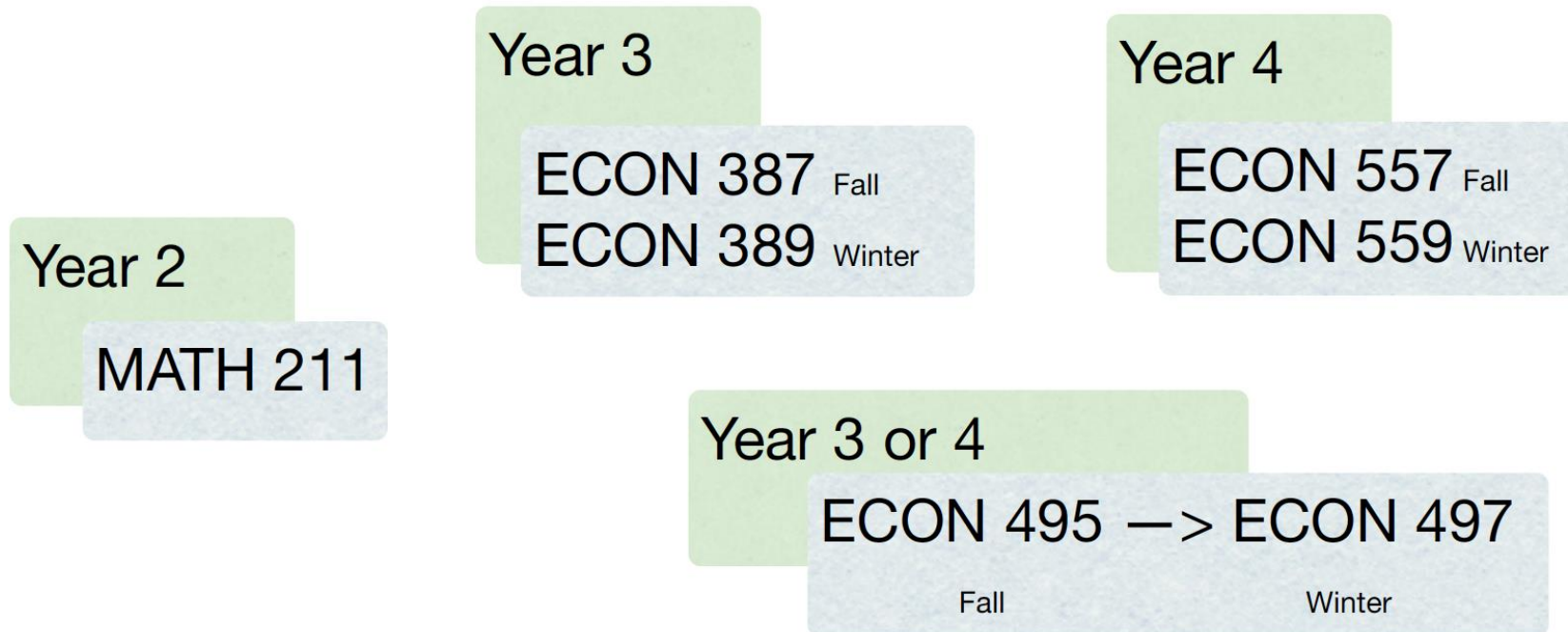
- **Mathematics and statistics**
 - MATH 211
 - ECON 387 and ECON 389 (mathematical economics)
 - ECON 495 and ECON 497 (econometrics)
- **Theory**
 - ECON 557 and ECON 559
- **Application**
 - More 400- and 500-level courses (at least 7 courses versus 4 courses)
- **More in-depth specialization in economics**



Honours Sequencing

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

In a perfect world

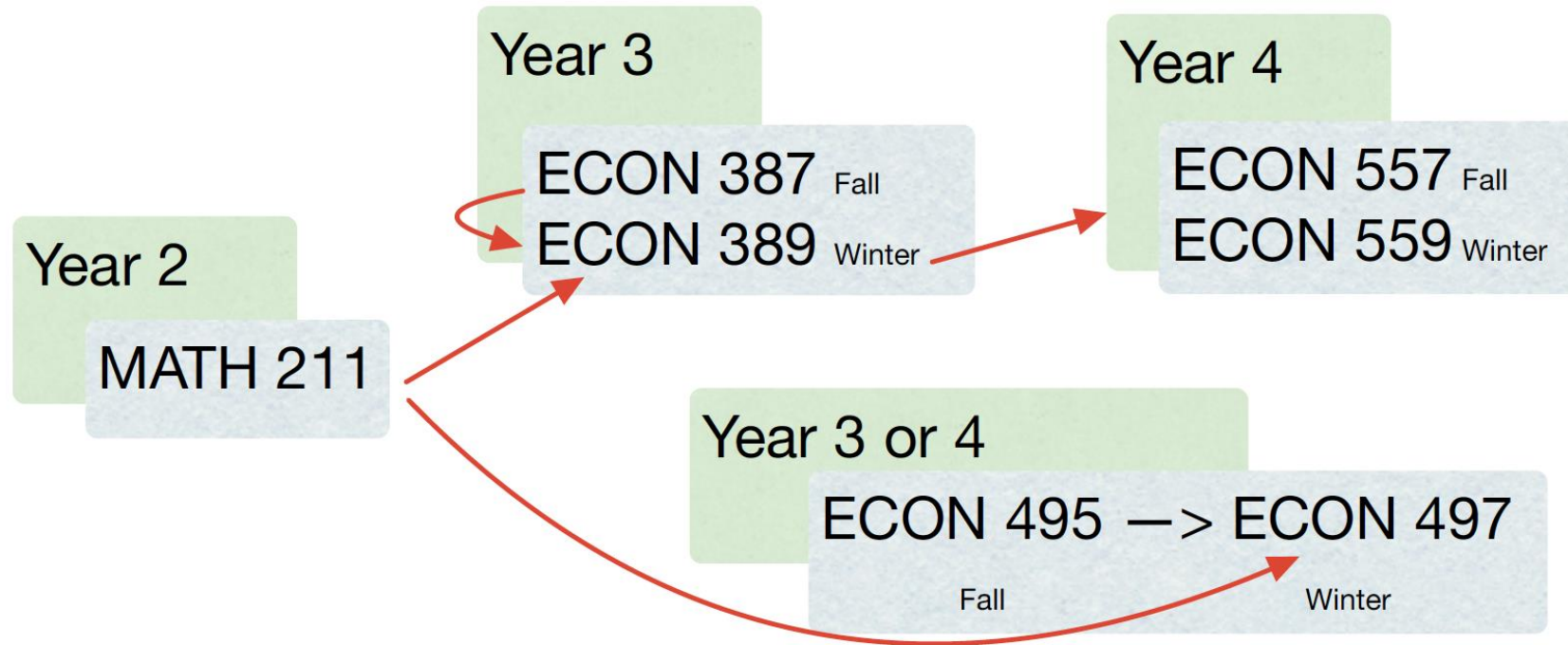




Honours Sequencing

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.

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

Julie Nguyen

4th year honours
transferred from BHSC
ECON 301 PASS leader

Ray Paskov

4th year honours
transferred from Faculty of Science
ECON 395 PASS leader and Mentor

Honours Alumni

Anju Hollis-Stout

Analyst at
Alberta Utilities Commission
MA at UofT

Jessica Liu

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

Bryce Keiller

current MA at UofC
Royal Bank of Canada

Riccardo Ficarella

current MA at UofC
ECON, POLI-minor