

Metrics Report: Economics (rev. 8/29/05)

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I. Program Overview

A. Department Profile

The Department of Economics is a well-established department with strong record of research and publishing. Teaching and research in economics is generally concentrated on applied economics. There is little emphasis on development of economic theory or the history of economic thought. There is a wide variety of research interests among the faculty. The most common are applied microeconomics, applied macroeconomics, econometrics and statistics, industrial organization, game theory, law and economics, international trade and development, and experimental economics.

The department's focus has shifted over the years. Economic history and non-market economic processes such as law and economics and public choice were the department's strengths in the early 1990's. Faculty turnover has led to a shift toward macroeconomics and econometrics. A growing area of research interest in the department is experimental economics and decision/game theory. International faculty hires and graduate students have given the program a strong international flavor, with particular attention paid to Asia.

Faculty

The Economics Department currently has seventeen full-time faculty members. This year, fourteen full-time faculty, two emeritus faculty, eight visiting faculty and approximately ten graduate students TA's will handle the department's extensive teaching load. One faculty member is on sabbatical and two are taking leaves of absence this year.

Graduate Students

The graduate program offers the PhD degree. There are currently twenty-six graduate students in the department. Beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year, the duration of funding for Economics graduate students was lengthened by a year to five years of support, and the number of admittances was accordingly restricted to four to five per year, whereas prior to 2004, the average was 8 admittances per year. The majority of graduate students admitted by the program in recent years have come from outside of the U.S.

First-year graduate students concentrate on required courses in preparation for core exams during the summer after their first year, and thus do little or no research. In their second and third years, they complete at least six courses in two separate fields of specialization (econometrics, growth and development, industrial organization, international economics, law and economics, macroeconomics, or public finance/public choice), and write two "field papers" of sufficient quality to be submitted for publication.

During this period they usually serve as faculty research assistants or teaching assistants. Possible areas for dissertation research are refined in ECON 791 (Dissertation Workshop). Fourth and fifth-year students primarily serve as TA's and do dissertation work.

Undergraduate Students

The Economics Department is one of the more popular undergraduate majors at Emory. Economics is a popular undergraduate major for pre-professional students, especially pre-law. There were 420 declared undergraduate majors, including 18 Honors students, during the 2004-2005 academic year. Enrollment in undergraduate Economics courses was 2,716 that year as well.

The undergraduate degree in Economics requires 40 credit hours. Students take five foundation courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and statistics, and one required course each in calculus and empirical analysis, and four elective courses in the concentration of their choice; Law and Economics, International Economics, Business Policy Analysis, Public Policy, Financial Economics, or Macroeconomic Policy.

The Economics Department offers joint majors in Economics and History, and Economics and Mathematics. The department maintains a large and active Honors program, and coordinates the Washington Economic Policy Seminar at American University in Washington DC each year.

B. Coordination/Cooperation/Collaborative Relationships

As was mentioned in section A., the Economics undergraduate program offers joint degrees in Economics and History, and Economics and Mathematics. But the cross-disciplinary nature of economics extends past history and mathematics. Methods of economic analysis can be applied to almost any topic. Some of the most common disciplines to apply economics are law, business, political science, and public health. As such, there are Emory faculty members who are affiliated with economics and teach economics courses, yet who reside within other departments, such as the Law School, the Business School, and the School of Public Health.

II. Description of Material Collected

A. Scope of the Collection

1. Subject Areas

The vast majority of the economics collection falls within the HB to HJ Library of Congress Call Number (LCCN) ranges save for some of the HF's, which cover business topics such as marketing and accounting. Other primarily-business subjects such as finance (HG) have applications in economics, and as such are considered to be a part of the economics collection as well as part of the business collection. Methods of economic analysis can be applied to almost any topic, and while the majority of economics-related

materials fall in the H's, it is not uncommon to find materials in other LCCN's that have an economic aspect to them. For example, a book on the economics of professional sports might be located in the GV's, the sports LCCN, rather than in one of the H's. Materials outside of the H's are only added to the collection by the economics selector, though, if they are judged to have a high degree of economics or economic analysis in them. Other call number ranges that commonly have applications to economics are U.S. history (E's), math and statistics (QA and HA), and Law (K's).

2. Chronology

Chronology is a factor in economics, because current work often builds on previous research. But the current work supercedes previous work in many instances, and so collection building is primarily focused on new works. Collection of older, chronologically important materials is primarily conducted on request from faculty and students who identify chronological gaps in their fields of interest.

3. Language

The economics collection is almost exclusively in English. Currently, English is the only language of materials being added to the collection.

4. Date of Publication

Date of publication is not a factor in collection development for economics. While the primary focus is on new works, any and all relevant economics work is considered for the collection.

5. Geographic Areas

Most of the collection is focused on the U.S. The newer departmental focus on international topics has led to a collection building effort on economics topics involving Central America, Africa, and East Asia, and India.

B. Formats and Publication Type

1. Monographs and Texts

Monographic collection building is focused on university and major academic presses known for publishing high-quality works in economics, such as the University of Chicago Press, MIT Press, Kluwer, and Ashgate. Economics monographs are received through the Yankee LBP approval plan and through the review of Yankee approval slips. Approval slips are used for books that exceed the approval plan's price cap or fall outside of the standard economics LCCN ranges. Other book dealers are used only in instances when a requested title is not available through YBP.

Textbooks are selectively added to the collection. Most undergraduate economics texts are not suitable for the library's collection, but many graduate-level textbooks are, especially for topics such as econometrics, where the texts can serve as a reference resource for those doing complicated statistical and mathematical modeling.

2. Serials

Academic journals are the primary mode of scholarly communication in economics. Emory has a good collection of journals in economics, but with the sheer volume and variety of journals in existence, there are bound to be gaps in the serials collection. Collection development of serials is handled on a case-by-case basis as gaps in the collection are identified and by request from the economics faculty.

Working papers (pre-print articles) are also an important mode of scholarly communication in economics. Most working papers are freely available on the internet and are thus not subject to acquisition for the collection. The library does, however, subscribe to the important working paper repositories in economics, such as the NBER Working Papers Series.

3. Electronic Publications

Electronic serials are a high priority for the economics department, who understandably prefer fast, easy access to as broad a portion of Emory's collection of scholarly work in economics as possible. The library provides electronic access to most titles in economics through subscription packages, individual subscriptions, and aggregators like ProQuest.

E-books have not been specifically requested by the economics department, and the only time they would be added to the collection is if it were the only format a desired title was available in. Working papers, while electronic, are not a collection focus because most are freely available on the internet.

4. Microforms

Microforms are not a collection priority for economics.

5. Multimedia

Video and audio materials are not a collection priority for economics. Occasionally, a faculty member will request a video as part of their teaching materials, and so collection of multimedia materials is strictly done on a case-by-case basis.

6. Government Publications

Government documents can be relevant to economics depending on the scope of someone's research. Collection responsibility for government documents usually falls to other subject selectors, though.

Data and statistics gathered by the U.S. and other governments and governmental agencies is of great importance in economics. Most government data is available for free on the internet from various governmental agencies, though. And so while it is important to be aware of the originating agencies and locations on the internet for government data, the acquisition of government data and statistics is not a priority for addition to the collection. Exceptions are made in the cases where a re-packaging or reorganization of the data provides value-added through improved ability to search the data or download data for statistical work.

7. Exclusions

Materials on agricultural economics are not acquired for the collection. There is no research or teaching in this field within the department. Conference proceedings are also excluded from the collection.