

Advising Sheets for Students Interested In Focusing on Law and Policy and Subsequent Graduate Studies

The Department of Economics prides itself on its efforts to educate critical thinkers and leaders as part of a program deeply embedded in the tradition of the liberal arts. Many of our students are interested in careers in the law and policy. The Economics major is one of the many common paths to law school and is an excellent preparation for future study in public policy when coupled with supporting studies.

Many careers in law involve relate to real-world economic problems. As lawyers write and interpret contracts, provide advice on mergers and acquisitions, help clients navigate the tax system, and help agents disputes of workers, landlords, and vendors, they must regularly confront problems with important economic content. Moreover, economic analysis resides squarely at the center of a wide variety of public policy problems. Whether the problems and policies are related to transportation, education, health care, tax, housing, or any from among many areas of policy, economics will be a key component of careful policy analysis and planning. Because the fields of law and policy require not only a strong background in economics but also a broad liberal arts training in history, politics, and other fields, this document is intended to help you plan your program of study so that you are well-prepared for graduate studies in law and policy upon graduation.

Students interested in attending law school in the future are encouraged to visit the Law School Admissions Council website (<http://www.lsac.org/>) and are strongly encouraged to visit the pre-law website at CSB|SJU and to try to arrange an advising session with one of the pre-law advisors (<http://www.csbsju.edu/pre-law/pre-law-advisors>). Students interested in public policy are encouraged to meet with their academic advisors in economics or in political science to discuss the pre-requisites and admissions processes to such programs.

A key strength of the economics major in preparing for studies in law or policy is that the size of the major, including prerequisites, is small enough to allow students to enjoy the full breadth of studies at CSB|SJU so as to take advantage of the many curricular and co-curricular opportunities that will allow for adequate preparation for future studies. Our students regularly are able to take a second major or minor in political science, languages, history, Peace Studies or other fields that are complementary and supportive of future studies in law or policy. In addition to describing the requirements for the major in economics, courses suggested below provide some idea of the types of courses that might be excellent additions to an economics major for students interested in law and policy. You are encouraged to review these suggestions and meet with your advisor to make a plan of study.

Below you will find the following:

1. Required Courses in the Economics major.
2. Suggestions for your undergraduate curriculum in Economics and supporting field.
3. A list of possible internship and internship programs.
4. A brief discussion of the pre-requisites for graduate studies in law and policy.

1. Required Courses in the Economics Major

Core Courses:

MATH 124 - Probability and Statistical Inference
MATH 118 - Essential Calculus or MATH 119 - Calculus I
ECON 332 - Microeconomic Theory
ECON 333 - Macroeconomic Theory
ECON 334 - Quantitative Methods in Economics
ECON 384 - Advanced Research in Economics

Topics Courses:

Option 1: Four Tier III Courses (ECON 350 or higher)

Option 2: Three Tier III Courses (ECON 350 or higher) and one Tier II Course (300-331)

The next section provides suggestions (course selection) that might appropriately fit your interests in as far as preparing for public policy programs or law school. We encourage you to sample widely in your curriculum both inside and outside of Economics to enhance your creativity, clarity, and breadth of thought.

2. Suggestions for your undergraduate curriculum

As you can see below, there are many departments which provide courses that connect very well with questions of law and domestic policy. As part of an economics major, you are encouraged to work with your advisor to consider a coherent set of courses both within and outside of economics that would help you to gain a greater understanding of problems and ideas related to policy or law depending on your interests.

<i>Economics and Preparation for Law and Public Policy Careers</i>	
Department	Courses
ECON Tier II	ECON 315: American Economic History ECON 318: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics ECON 320: Market Structures and Firm Strategy ECON 323: Economics of the Public Sector ECON 325: Political Economy of Gender and Race
ECON Tier III	ECON 353: Labor Economics and Public Policy Analysis ECON 359: Environmental Economics and Policy ECON 376: Industrial Organization and Public Policy ECON 379: Welfare Economics and Public Policy Analysis
POLS	POLS 111: Introduction to U.S. Politics POLS 114: Public Policy Analysis and Recommendation POLS 222: Analysis: U.S. Policy and Elections POLS 224: Courts, Law and Policy POLS 295: Public Policy Debate POLS 320: Topics in Law POLS 330: Environmental Politics and Policy POLS 334: U.S. Bureaucracy and Regulatory Law POLS 336: Local Regional Governance POLS 337: Theory of Public Policy POLS 338: Public Sector POLS 350: Topics in Public Policy
GBUS/ACFN	GBUS 361: Law and Business ACFN 335: Business Law
COMM	COMM 101: Public Speaking and the Public Sphere COMM 220: Debate COMM 225: Argumentation and Advocacy COMM 304: Political Communication
PCST/SOCI	PCST 111: Introduction to Peace Conflict Studies PCST 346: Mediation and Conflict Resolution PCST 347: Human Rights PCST 348: Social Movements PCST 368J: Nongovernmental Organization SOCI 250: Social Problems SOCI 341: Urban Studies
PHIL	PHIL 110: Logic PHIL 125: Social Philosophy PHIL 358: Philosophy of Law

3. A list of possible internship and internship programs.

1. You will find that an Economics major with appropriate complementary studies is excellent preparation for future studies in law and policy.
2. Moreover, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are actively supportive of students seeking internships, especially in areas that involve civic engagement and public policy.
3. Three programs should be of particular interest to students interested in these areas.
 1. The Washington D.C. Summer Study Program. Economics majors regularly participate in this program, and we strongly encourage our students to apply. There are a number of opportunities for students interested in public policy, and there are even some internship opportunities where students can make direct application of their economics training. You are encouraged to check the following link if you are interested in this program: <http://www.csbsju.edu/political-science/washington-dc-internship>. Note that students who participate in this program are eligible to apply for the Brandl Scholars fund. This fund honors a CSB|SJU alumnus, John Brandl, who earned undergraduate degree in economics at SJU in 1959 and his doctoral degree in economics from Harvard. He had a distinguished career in both academia and in public service, and these funds are intended to help CSB and SJU students gain greater opportunities to engage in public service.
 2. For students interested in activities that involve more hands on engagement in communities and public service should consider the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellows Program. Jackson Fellows have full-time fellowships involving community service, government and/or public policy advocacy and implementation. Details of this program may be found at the following link: <http://www.csbsju.edu/elce/jackson-fellows-program/what-is-the-jackson-fellows-program>
 3. Finally, the Department of Economics offers funding for internships in Economics and Public Policy. These Fruth Summer Internships in Economics and Policy are intended to help students take internships where they will be able to actively engage in economic and quantitative analysis to support the work of government or non-profit organizations. Applications for this program are announced early each spring.

4. Discussion of the pre-requisites for master’s level graduate studies in law and policy.

Considering Law School?

There are a variety of things you ought to consider when looking at and applying to law schools.

1. What academic profile and LSAT scores do the schools expect?
2. What are the areas of specialty of a given school? Specialties include fields such as Trial Advocacy, Corporate, Intellectual Property Law, Tax Law, Health Care Law, International Law, et cetera.
3. Be sure to make use of CSB|SJU pre-law advisors. They can help you decide whether law school is really the right path for you. The URL for the list of pre-law advisors is as follows:
<http://www.csbsju.edu/pre-law/pre-law-professional-advisors>.
4. Here’s the list of Top 50 Law Schools in the United States. Keep in mind that there are many good law schools that are not listed below that might be a better fit for you based on the type of law you think you might wish to practice and where you hope to practice.

Top 50 Law Schools in the United States			
Rank	Law School	Rank	Law School
1	Yale University	26	University of Notre Dame
2	Harvard University	27	Boston University
3	Stanford University	28	University of Iowa
4	Columbia University	29	Indiana University—Bloomington (Maurer)
5	University of Chicago	30	University of Georgia
6	New York University	31	Arizona State University (O'Connor)
7	University of Pennsylvania	32	Ohio State University (Moritz)
8	University of Virginia	33	University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill
9	University of California—Berkeley	34	University of Wisconsin—Madison
10	Duke University	35	Wake Forest University
11	University of Michigan—Ann Arbor	36	Boston College
12	Northwestern University	37	Brigham Young University (Clark)
13	Cornell University	38	Fordham University
14	Georgetown University	39	University of California—Davis
15	University of Texas—Austin	40	University of Arizona (Rogers)
16	University of California—Los Angeles	41	University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign
17	Vanderbilt University	42	Southern Methodist University (Dedman)
18	Washington University in St. Louis	43	University of Colorado—Boulder
19	Emory University	44	Washington and Lee University
20	George Washington University	45	Florida State University
21	University of Minnesota—Twin Cities	46	George Mason University
22	University of Southern California (Gould)	47	Tulane University
23	University of Alabama	48	University of Maryland (Carey)
24	College of William and Mary (Marshall-Wythe)	49	University of Florida (Levin)
25	University of Washington	50	University of Utah (Quinney)

Considering Graduate Studies in Public Policy

1. Public policy and public affairs graduate programs provide excellent opportunities for further education and professional development for students interested in public policy, non-profit management, government service, and public service.
2. Students should know that there are a variety of degrees offered by schools of public policy. While there is some overlap in program content, each school and each degree is characterized by different emphases. Some of the most well-known degrees in public policy include the following: Master of Public Affairs (M.P.A.), Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.), Master of Public Administration (M.P.Admin. and M.P.A.), Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.), and Master of Urban and Regional Planning (M.U.R.P.). Be sure to investigate the specialty fields of any given school. Some common specialties include the following: Urban Policy, City Planning, Environmental Policy, Nonprofit Management, Public Administration, International Policy and Development, et cetera.
3. Programs will generally expect some initial background in policy, economics, and at least some quantitative training (including at least one introductory course in statistics). The economics major at CSB|SJU will generally put you in a good position to satisfy admissions requirements, but plan ahead and review the admissions expectations of the programs in which you have interest.
4. Below is a ranking of the top programs in public policy in the United States. Not every program is the best at each area of specialty; therefore, careful attention should be paid to the curriculum.

Top 50 Graduate Public Affairs Programs in the United States			
Rank	Public Affairs Program	Rank	Public Affairs Program
1	Syracuse University (Maxwell)	26	University of California—Los Angeles (Luskin)
2	Indiana University—Bloomington	27	University of Chicago (Harris)
3	Harvard University (Kennedy)	28	University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill
4	University of Georgia	29	Columbia University
5	Princeton University (Wilson)	30	Ohio State University (Glenn)
6	New York University (Wagner)	31	University of Colorado—Denver
7	University of California—Berkeley (Goldman)	32	University of Maryland—College Park
8	University of Southern California (Price)	33	Texas A&M University - (Bush)
9	Carnegie Mellon University (Heinz)	34	University of Missouri (Truman)
10	University of Kansas	35	University of Nebraska—Omaha
11	University of Washington (Evans)	36	University of Pittsburgh
12	American University	37	Cornell University
13	George Washington University (Trachtenberg)	38	University of Arizona
14	University of Michigan—Ann Arbor (Ford)	39	University of Delaware
15	University of Wisconsin—Madison (La Follette)	40	University of Illinois—Chicago
16	Arizona State University	41	Virginia Tech
17	Duke University (Sanford)	42	Cleveland State University (Levin)
18	Florida State University (Askew)	43	George Mason University
19	University at Albany—SUNY (Rockefeller)	44	Johns Hopkins University
20	University of Kentucky (Martin)	45	University of Pennsylvania (Fels)
21	University of Minnesota - (Humphrey)	46	CUNY—Baruch College
22	University of Texas—Austin (LBJ)	47	Northern Illinois University
23	Georgetown University	48	Portland State University (Hatfield)
24	Georgia State University (Young)	49	Rutgers—New Brunswick (Bloustein)
25	Rutgers — Newark	50	University of Connecticut