

Paterno Liberal Arts Undergraduate Fellows in Economics

Students of economics who aspire to become Liberal Arts Fellows are encouraged to take the honors sections of the four core courses in economics: Introductory Microeconomic Analysis (ECON 002H), Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis (ECON 004H), Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (ECON 302H), and Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis (ECON 304H). The former two honors courses cover a lot of ground normally covered in the nonhonors versions of the latter two, while the latter two courses extend the traditional analysis of the nonhonors versions by making extensive use of calculus.

Aspiring Liberal Arts Fellows in economics should meet with Clair Smith, Lecturer in Economics. Once students are admitted as Liberal Arts Fellows they will be advised by Clair Smith and by David Shapiro, Professor of Economics.

Criteria for Admission as a Liberal Arts Fellow: For students seeking to become Liberal Arts Fellows following their first year, it is expected that they will have completed ECON 002 and 004 (or preferably, their honors counterparts) with an average grade of A- (3.67). A minimum grade average of 3.5 in these two courses (or, for students who enter with AP credit for ECON 002 and 004, comparable grades for ECON 302 and 304 or, preferably, their honors counterparts) is required for admission to the program, as well as an overall GPA of 3.4. For students seeking admission following their second year, the same overall GPA requirement applies, and they are expected to have completed all four core courses (002, 004, 302, 304) or their honors counterparts with a GPA of at least 3.5. Students apply for admission via the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Economics.

Students who become Liberal Arts Fellows in economics will have the opportunity to apply for admission to the Honors Program in Economics, a departmental program that dates back to the mid-1960s. The program is a 12-credit package taken during a fall-spring academic year (usually the student's senior year), and it consists of an honors seminar done each semester plus an honors thesis written over the course of the full year. The honors program normally has 12-15 participants.

Liberal Arts Fellows who are not also in the departmental honors program will be expected to take at least two of the department's 400-level writing-intensive seminars, and obtain grades averaging at least 3.5 in these two seminars. These seminars are in seven broad areas of economics: microeconomics/applied microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, industrial organization, international economics/trade, labor economics, and economic development. Each of these seminars will include as a course requirement a major individual paper, and these papers will constitute the student's capstone experience.
