

## **Careers and Graduate Opportunities for Economics Majors**

Economics straddles both the Social Sciences and the Business arenas. As a social science, it forms the theoretical foundation of all business disciplines, except for Accountancy.

Accountancy, in its modern form, had its genesis in in 1494 during the Renaissance by the Franciscan Friar and mathematician Luca Pacioli, when he developed double entry bookkeeping.

Economics focuses on the behavior of businesses and individuals under a broad range of conditions. Students of economics engage in critical thinking and analysis, and become conversant in both written and quantitative descriptions of phenomena studied. Perhaps uniquely among business oriented fields, economics teaches students to think in theoretical terms, and in practical application of those theories. Economics majors learn how to translate complicated quantitative results and theoretical models into practical and easily understandable terms, to assist the decision-making of colleagues or managers who are not conversant in the field.

Many of our graduates go on to work in a variety of industries throughout western Pennsylvania. The skills learned allow graduates the greatest freedom among business oriented majors in terms of entry level and career pathways within business and industry. Our graduates find employment in a variety of professional fields including finance analysis, management, economist, account executive, budget analyst, consultant, banking, labor relations, community development, national intelligence, utility management and forecasting.

The degree program at Clarion also gives graduates a solid foundation to continue graduate study. A recent survey of graduates found approximately 60% pursued some form of post-graduate study. The most popular post-graduate fields of study include the MBA, a Masters or Ph.D. in Economics, and law school. Because of its focus on abstract reasoning and critical thinking, economics is among the best preparatory majors for law school.

### **Recent Alumni Have Obtained Employment at the Following:**

- U.S. Federal Government (Social Security Administration, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Commerce, Environmental Protection Administration, and the CIA)
- Federal Reserve
- PA State Government
- Northwest Savings Bank, PNC Financial Services, BNY Mellon, FNB Corporation, Fidelity Trust
- UPMC, other health care entities
- The Steel industry
- The Big Four accountancy firms, smaller accountancy firms specializing in Non-Profit Accountancy
- MuniCap: a firm specializing in assisting municipalities as they issue bonds

### **Recent Alumni Have Pursued Graduate School at:**

- Harvard Law School
- University of Pittsburgh Law School
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of West Virginia
- American University
- University of Maryland
- Suffolk University

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