



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Pursuing an Honours Degree in Economics

Department of Economics

Dr. Rob Oxoby, Department Head of Economics

Why pursue an honours degree?

- More in-depth analysis of economic problems and issues
- Enhanced methods
- Community within the Department
- Greater preparation for your career
- Preparation for graduate school

Why pursue an honours degree?

- More advanced tools and methods permit deeper understanding of problems
 - Behavioural economics
 - Economics and biology
 - Economics and addiction
- More rigorous analysis permits greater applicability to implementation
 - Policy analysis and implementation
 - Entrepreneurship and innovation



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PRE-HONOURS SOCIAL & INFORMATION NIGHT

Dr. Dimitri Migrow

Honours program coordinator

January 26, 2022

Economics at UoC

- Our department is a *vibrant hub* of economic scholarship
 - Our faculty publish in top journals and are regularly recognized for their research contributions
 - Our faculty are consulted for advice on economic policy issues by NGOs, governments and companies

- Honours program is an opportunity to interact with economists on the research frontier
 - Energy and environmental economics
 - Regulatory economics and industrial organization
 - Health economics
 - Behavioral economics
 - Trade

Honours: part of the community

- **Our undergraduate program is home to approximately 850 majors in economics**
 - Excellent opportunity to differentiate yourself
 - You signal both motivations and skills
- **Self-select into a community of individuals with similar interests and motivations**
- **Enhanced learning experience (small groups, complementary backgrounds: finance, political science, maths, statistics, psychology)**
 - Closer interaction with academics, designated office space

Honours: skills

- **Economic Theory**
 - Theory is a natural starting point, before testing models empirically
 - Learn the formal language that can be applied to solve problems in finance, public policy, environment regulations, design of international treaties etc.

- **Statistics and Econometrics**
 - Test predictions using data
 - Measure the magnitude of responses
 - Help to improve existing theory frameworks

Professional career with BA Honours

- 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

Honours: path to a graduate school

- Master degree can be completed in one year
 - Opens a lot of opportunities
 - Double your starting salary
- Our graduates are valued by best grad programs in Canada (UBC, Toronto, Queen's, Western, and of course UoC)
- Funding can be extensive (\$ 35.000 per year)
- We sent graduates to
 - All major Canadian schools
 - LSE, University of Geneva, Barcelona grad school of economics

- **THANK YOU!**



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PRE-HONOURS INFORMATION SESSION

Dr. Lucia Vojtassak

Senior Instructor and Undergraduate Program Director

January 26, 2022

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**
- **Higher academic performance** — both in economics and in non-ECON courses
 - To get in (and stay in) you'll need to achieve at least a 3.3 GPA
 - You'll need to achieve at least a 3.3 GPA in your final 30 classes (or 90 credits)

Recommended Options

400- or 500-level ECON courses with a **writing requirement!**

- **ECON 471: Industrial Organization**
 - Game theory, imperfect competition, economic reasoning, application of theory to the real world
- **MATH 267, 271 (MATH 335 or 355)**
- **MATH 403**
 - Expand mathematical toolset to include techniques often used in graduate programs
- **ECON 483: History of Economic Thought**
- **ECON 425: International Trade**
- **ECON 401: Public Sector Economics: Expenditures**



Honours Sequencing

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

In a perfect world

Year 2

MATH 211

Year 3

ECON 387 Fall

ECON 389 Winter

Year 4

ECON 557 Fall

ECON 559 Winter

Year 3 or 4

ECON 495 → ECON 497

Fall

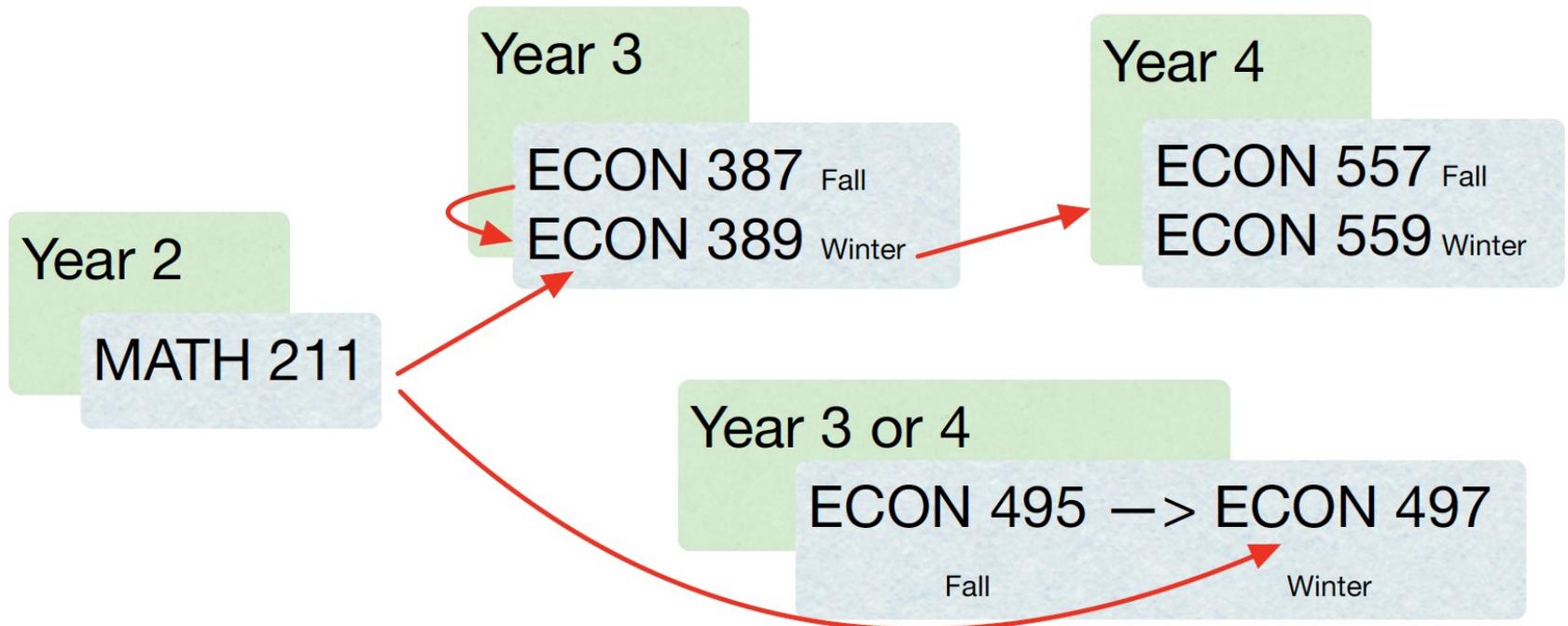
Winter



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.

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 Honours Advisor [Dr. Dimitri Migrow](#)
- Email Undergraduate Director [Dr. Lucia Vojtassak](#)

Honours Student Panel

Honours Alumni

Lana Milic

- combined degree in ECON & Statistics
- currently a digital analyst at Benevity

Jessica Liu

- combined degree in ECON & Computer Science
- currently at MSA— market surveillance administrator

Current Honours Students

Jordan Schimke

- 5th year honours
- SUE VP Academic

Sebastian Bratu

- 5th year honours
- combined ECON & B.Comm program

Stephen Claassen

- current MA student
- non-honours student
- considering PhD