

Probably more than any other factor, it is the relevance of economics that initially attracts students. Few if any disciplines are equal to economics in preparing one to be an interested, interesting, and competent observer of current events. This is because economics is a social science that develops models for organizing facts and thinking effectively. This empowers its students to make well-reasoned decisions— in analyzing personal decisions and business problems and in drawing informed conclusions about public policy— based on a comprehensive analysis of the costs and benefits of alternatives. And because economics is so often connected to government policy, students also learn about the legal and political institutions which impact consumers, workers, and businesses.

“But what kind of job can I get?” Most graduates use economics as a stepping stone to other occupations. Economic training is wide-reaching, and thus, career alternatives are unusually varied, including business, finance, banking, journalism, and government service. If one is unsure of what major to choose or what career to pursue, economics offers the ability to keep one’s options for the future more flexible. And of degrees offered at IUS, only those connected to computer science and information systems have higher national average starting salaries (National Association of Colleges and Employers, *Salary Survey*, July 2000).

Moreover, the study of economics is an excellent preparation for graduate school in law, business, and public administration-- given that it develops one’s ability to think analytically. Law students list economics and accounting as the undergraduate courses they value most and wish they had taken more often. And those who majored in economics as undergraduates have the highest LSAT scores (*Journal of Economic Education*, Fall 1998, p. 377-379; History majors placed 2<sup>nd</sup>; English majors placed 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Political Science majors placed 9<sup>th</sup>). Only engineering topped economics as undergraduate majors who became MBA graduates earning \$100,000 in their first year out of graduate school (*Business Week*, 10/24/94, p. 72).

In a word, economics offers a course of study that is interesting and provocative, beneficial in terms of career options, and useful in understanding the world.