



Economic Development Career Guide

About Economic Development

No single definition incorporates all of the different strands of economic development. Typically economic development can be described in terms of objectives. These are most commonly described as the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement of quality of life. Economic development can also be described as a process that influences growth and restructuring of an economy to enhance the economic well-being of a community. In the broadest sense, economic development encompasses three major areas:

- Policies that government undertakes to meet broad economic objectives including inflation control, high employment, and sustainable growth
- Policies and programs to provide services including building highways, managing parks, and providing medical access to the disadvantaged
- Policies and programs explicitly directed at improving the business climate through specific efforts, business finance, marketing, neighborhood development, business retention and expansion, technology transfer, real estate development and others

(Information provided by the International Economic Development Council)

Recommended Courses

Advanced Electives in the major in order of relevance

- Econ 464 International Trade and Finance
- Econ 467 International Industrial Organizations
- Econ 475 Economics of Growth
- Econ 390 Contemporary Economic Issues, Topic: Varies
- Econ 521 Game Theory and Economic Analysis

Applied Fields in the major

- Econ 343 Environmental Economics
- Econ 421 Economic Analysis of Agricultural Markets
- Econ 531 Natural Resource Economics
- Econ 462 Latin American Economic Development
- Econ 473 Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia
- Econ 474 Economic Problems of Developing Areas
- Econ 477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
- Econ 663 Population and Society
- Econ 671 Energy Economics

Suggested Courses Outside of the Department of Economics

- Poli Sci 316 Principles of International Law

- Poli Sci 652 The Politics of Development
- Courses within the Development Economics Certificate (<http://www.aae.wisc.edu/ugrad/devcert-course.aspx>)

Relevant Majors & Certificates

Majors:

- [Geography](#) (L&S)
- [Political Science](#) (L&S)
- [Real Estate](#) (Business School)
- [Agricultural and Applied Economics](#) (CALs)
- [Community and Environmental Sociology](#) (CALs)
- [Civil Engineering](#) (Engineering)

Certificates:

- [Development Economics](#) (CALs)
- [Business](#) (Business School)
- [Entrepreneurship](#) (Business School)
- [Business Management for Agricultural and Life Sciences](#) (CALs) *Must have CALs major*

Student Organizations

- [Economic Student Association](#)
- [Global Economic Forum](#)
- [Real Estate Club](#)
- [Engineers without Borders](#)
- [Village Health Project](#)

Search <https://win.wisc.edu/organizations> for additional student organizations.

Gain Technical Skills

- [DoIt Software Training for Students](#) : Free workshops including Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Excel, iMovie and more! Free access to online trainings through Lynda.com.
- [SSCC Training Classes](#) : Free classes on various software including Stata and Linstat

Job and Internship Search Resources

- [Handshake](#) - Find internships and jobs, as well as info sessions and workshops on campus
- [Indeed](#) – Search for internships and jobs by job title, company name, city, state and more
- [MyVisaJobs](#) – Find U.S. employers who have historically sponsored international employees
- [LinkedIn](#) – Create a professional social media profile to connect with future employers; follow companies of interest to learn about new job postings

Economic Development Specific Job Search Sites:

- [Federal Reserve](#) or [Federal Reserve Districts](#) – Find internships and jobs with the central bank of the United States OR one of the twelve Federal Reserve District Branches
- [GovernmentJobs.com](#) – Search by “Economic Development” keyword or category. Pulls government-related positions throughout the USA

- [USAjobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) – Search by “Economic Development” keyword. Pulls federal government positions throughout the USA
- [US Economic Development Administration Directory](#) – Find agencies or organizations by state that might offer internships, fellowships, or jobs

Sample Job Titles

- Housing Development Aide
- Regional/Urban Planner
- Project Assistant
- Economic Development Coordinator
- Urban Planning Research Assistant
- Public Utilities Manager
- Economic Analyst
- Redevelopment Specialist
- Research Analyst
- Community Development Planner
- Land Acquisition Analyst

Additional Resources for Career Exploration

- [Economic Career Development Office](#) – Get career guidance, resume and cover letter reviews, and interview tips
- [Vault](#) - Create an account [HERE](#) and explore guides on specific industries, jobs, and top employers
 - [Vault Industry & Professions Database](#)
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) – Explore occupations by industry or interest area and learn what the positions do, how to become one, pay ranges, job outlook, and similar occupations
 - [Urban and Regional Planners Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
 - [Economist Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

Gain Industry Knowledge

- [The World Bank](#) - Increase understanding of development policies and programs
- [US Economic Development Association](#) - Learn about creating conditions for economic growth
- [National Economic Development Organizations](#) – Learn about economic development organizations throughout the USA
- [Wisconsin Economic Development Association](#) - See Wisconsin’s economic growth efforts
- [International Economics Development Council](#) - A non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes economic well-being by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth
- [Department of Commerce](#) - Keep up to date with the U.S. cabinet department dedicated to promoting economic growth
- [Foreign Policy Association](#) - Develop awareness and understanding on U.S. foreign policy and global issues
- [US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) - Get informed about policies regarding housing and metropolises
- [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) – See publications, reports, grants, laws and regulations regarding environmental topics