

To all transfer students planning to major in economics at NYU:

First, welcome to NYU and the economics major!

This document answers some common questions about transferring into the major, explains which of your prior economics and statistics courses might count toward the major, and what you must do to get some of your prior courses approved. Be sure to read each bolded section that applies to you.

- **I'm transferring into NYU, and I want to major in economics. What do I need to do?**

The three things you'll need to do, in this order, are: (1) Declare the major (if you haven't done so already); (2) Obtain special permission from the NYU economics department to apply some of your prior economics and/or statistics courses to the NYU major; (3) if eligible (see last page), obtain approval from the *math* department for non-statistics math courses you've taken elsewhere; and (4) register for economics courses.

*Please note: The economics department does not approve math courses, except for statistics. Only the math department can approve non-statistics math courses. (Contact Beth Markowitz: [bm71@nyu.edu](mailto:bm71@nyu.edu))*

- **I'm transferring to NYU for my junior year. Can I still complete the econ major at NYU?**

There are certain required courses that you will have to take at NYU regardless whether you already completed a course with a similar title at your previous institution. Completing these courses and their prerequisites in order will take at least five semesters, so you will have to prioritize taking these courses, and take at least one course during summer sessions, either before or after your junior year at NYU.

Most importantly you will have to take the sequence (1) Mathematics for Economics (MFE) 1 > (2) MFE 2 > (3) Intermediate Micro > (4) Intermediate Macro > (5) two 300-level electives at NYU. The department will not make any exceptions to prerequisites for these courses, so they have to be taken in that order. Any of these courses can be taken during the summer, although we recommend that students take MFE 1 and/or 2 during the summer before their junior year rather than intermediate micro or macro during the summer after their junior year. If you already have taken math courses that may be equivalent to MFE 1 or 2 you may also satisfy the MFE requirement by passing the appropriate waiver exam administered by the Math department: <https://math.nyu.edu/dynamic/undergrad/placement-exams/>

- **How do I declare the major?**

Most transfer students have already declared their major when they applied, and were admitted as transfer students, to NYU. If for some reason you have not declared, email the economics department advisors, Andrew Whitney and Corey Brown, with your full name and your NYU ID number (begins with "N"), and tell them whether you intend to major in economics only, joint economics/math, or joint economics/computer science.

- **As an econ major, should I do the policy concentration or the theory concentration?**

The vast majority of economics majors at NYU – and almost all transfer students -- pursue the Policy concentration. However, those who declare a joint major in economics and either math or computer science must pursue the Theory concentration. For more information about the two concentrations, please see the economics department website: [www.econ.nyu.edu](http://www.econ.nyu.edu) → undergraduate program → major in economics.

You do not have to state your choice of concentration when you declare the major, but in some cases, it will affect which of your prior economics courses the department will approve.

- **Will *all* of my prior econ courses count toward the major at NYU?**

Unfortunately, no. While the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at NYU may have accepted all of your courses as *college* credits, satisfying the requirements of the economics major is a separate matter. If you want to be an economics major, you will have to retake some of your prior economics courses at NYU.

Here's why: The NYU economics major is highly structured. Instructors of higher-level courses assume that you have thoroughly mastered the material of all lower level and prerequisite courses *as they are taught at NYU*. Moreover, a prerequisite for most economics courses after the introductory level is the two course-sequence Mathematics for Economics I & II (MATH-UA 211 & 212). These courses include topics from Calculus I, Calculus II, Calculus II, Linear Algebra and Real Analysis, but also include mathematical tools used by economists that are not taught in these other math courses. Economics courses at NYU are taught using these tools. So even though a course may share the same name as your prior course, it will be taught differently at NYU.

Note that when you retake economics courses, NYU does not count the credits again. Only the *retaken* credits at NYU are applied towards the credits required for your economics major and your B.A. degree.

- **Which of my prior economics courses might be approved for the major at NYU?**

The economics department *may or may not* approve the required courses Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics, or Statistics if you have already taken these courses at your prior institution. When economics credit for *electives* is approved, it is only at the 200-level. Intermediate Micro and Macro, Introduction to Econometrics, as well as the two required 300-level *electives must be* taken at NYU.

Politics courses, business courses, and *electives without economics prerequisites* do not count toward the economics major at NYU.

- **How, exactly, do I get some of my prior econ courses approved for the major?**

If you've completed any economics or statistics courses at another college (even courses you will have to take again at NYU), you should enter each course on one or both of the following forms:

For courses taken at a college *in the United States* (including AP), fill out the "U.S. Econ Course Info" form attached to the same email as this document. Email the completed form to [econtransfer@gmail.com](mailto:econtransfer@gmail.com).

For courses taken at any college or high school *outside of the United States*, fill out the "NON-U.S. Econ Course Info" form attached to the same email as this document. Email it to [econtransfer2@gmail.com](mailto:econtransfer2@gmail.com). (Note the "2" in the address).

If you do not already have the forms, contact the economics advisors and request them. (Their contact info is at the end of this document.)

- **What about my prior math courses, other than statistics?**

Prior math courses are irrelevant for economics majors because they must take Math for Economics I & II at NYU. However, the mathematics requirements for those pursuing a joint math-econ or joint econ-computer science major are more complicated. Joint majors with prior math courses should contact Beth Markowitz ([bm71@nyu.edu](mailto:bm71@nyu.edu)) at the math department to get math courses approved. The economics department does not approve math courses, except for statistics. Only the math department can approve non-statistics math courses.

- **How do I register for econ courses?**

First, wait until you receive notification from the economics department, listing which of your courses were approved for the NYU econ major. Then, log on to the Albert system, and see which of the economics courses you are eligible to take still have open slots in the course or the wait list. If you see an open spot in the course you want to take, contact Andrew Whitney and Corey Brown, and they will help you register.

- **The course I want to take is full. But I really, really need to take it. Can someone get me in?**

In a word, no. When courses are full, admitting additional students would violate arrangements with TAs or fire laws that limit room capacity. And if someone drops a course that's full, students are automatically admitted in their order on the waitlist. Even if a recitation section for the course is listed as "open," once the *lecture* is full, additional students cannot be enrolled.

- **I don't want to retake some of my prior econ courses at NYU. Can I appeal?**

Yes, but...

Before you appeal, be sure you understand a few things. First, appeals are rarely granted. Second, there are advantages to taking courses at NYU that share names with your prior courses. Some of the material in the new course will overlap with your prior course, creating an easier workload and a smoother adjustment as you pursue the major at NYU. You will also learn important new methods and approaches, and thus have a more solid foundation for future coursework.

If you decide to appeal anyway, you will need additional documentation. Appeals should be emailed to the economics department advisors, Andrew Whitney and Corey Brown, with the word "Appeal" in the subject heading, and the following documents attached: (1) the entire academic transcript from your prior college(s), including grades in all courses; (2) detailed syllabi for the course (s) you are appealing, and (3) an explanation of the appeal, including the grounds for your assertion that the course that you took was taught at the same level as the course at NYU, including the incorporation of the tools taught in Math For Economics I and II. Your appeal will then be considered by the department's director of undergraduate studies.

- **I still have questions. What do I do?**

Before contacting the department, be sure you've read the relevant sections of the economics department webpage ([www.econ.nyu.edu](http://www.econ.nyu.edu) → undergraduate program → various subsections), where the most common questions are answered. If you still have questions that can be easily answered via email, and require an

answer before you arrive in the fall, you can email the economics department advisors, Andrew Whitney and Corey Brown. For more complicated questions, or questions that can wait, you can visit the economics department advising office (19 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor) once you arrive at NYU.

**Contact Information:**

For submission of U.S. Econ Course forms only: [econtransfer@gmail.com](mailto:econtransfer@gmail.com)

For submission of NON-U.S. Econ Course forms: [econtransfer2@nyu.edu](mailto:econtransfer2@nyu.edu)

Economics Department Advisors: If you are already in New York, it is best to visit the economics department advisors *in person*: 19 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., 8<sup>th</sup> floor, #836 and #837.

If you are not on campus, you can email:

Andrew Whitney: [andrew.whitney@nyu.edu](mailto:andrew.whitney@nyu.edu)

Corey Brown: [corey.brown@nyu.edu](mailto:corey.brown@nyu.edu)