

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the Bachelor of Economics (BEc) and the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)?

Economics and commerce are related fields, and students are often unsure as to which course is best for them. The two degrees are similar; however, the choice of course depends largely on your interests and career aspirations.

The BEc belongs to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, whereas the BCom belongs to the Business School.

In the BEc, you must complete a ‘program’ in Economics which consists of core foundational units of study in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics and your choice of ‘embedded’ major in: Economics; Financial Economics; Environmental, Agricultural and Resource Economics; or Econometrics. You can take a second major, including those offered by the Business School (e.g., Accounting, Banking, Finance, etc.), allowing you to combine studies in both economics and business.

In the BCom, you must complete a major from those offered by the Business School but can also access economics majors (as a second major) through the Shared Pool (Table S). However, much like the BEc has core economics units (in the ‘program’) additional to the major, the BCom has ‘degree core’ units (*Future of Business*, *Accounting for Decision Making*, etc.) that you must complete.

In short, if your primary interest is economics, you should take the Bachelor of Economics as it provides more rigorous training than an economics major alone while offering the flexibility to incorporate Business School (and other) majors.

What is the difference between the Bachelor of Economics and the Bachelor of Economics & Bachelor of Advanced Studies, and what are the requirements of each course?

The table below outlines the common components and points of difference between the two courses (for students commencing in 2025).

Bachelor of Economics	Bachelor of Economics & Bachelor of Advanced Studies
3 years f/t; 144 credit points	4 years f/t; 192 credit points
Economics or Advanced Economics* program (72cp), which includes an ‘embedded’ major of your choice in:	
Economics	
Econometrics	

Financial Economics; or Environmental, Agricultural and Resource Economics	
*students take the embedded Economics major by default	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second major (48cp); or • minor (36cp) from the School of Economics or the Shared Pool (Table S) (e.g., Finance, Mathematics, Politics)	Second major (48cp) from the School of Economics or the Shared Pool (Table S) (e.g., Finance, Mathematics, Politics)
Open Learning Environment (OLE) unit(s) (6cp)	
Any additional (elective) units required to achieve the 144cp total	Any additional (elective) units required to achieve the 192cp total
	Advanced Coursework (minimum 24cp)

What is the difference between the Economics program and the Economics major?

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Economics (or Bachelor of Economics combined degree) must complete a 'program' in Economics or Advanced Economics, totalling 72 credit points. In addition to an 'embedded' economics-based major (48 credit points), the program contains foundational (core) units in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics. The program is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Economics (or Bachelor of Economics combined degree), whereas the Economics major (and other economics-based majors such as Econometrics) may be taken in numerous undergraduate degrees (e.g., Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts, etc.).

The table below compares the Economics major with the longer Economics program.

Unit of study	Economics program (72cp) with 'embedded' Economics major	Economics major (48cp)
ECON1001	Y	Y
ECON1002	Y	Y
ECMT1010	Y	
ECMT1020	Y	
ECOS2001/ECOS2901	Y	Y
ECOS2002/ECOS2902	Y	Y
ECMT2150/ECMT2950	Y	
1x Program selective	Y	
3x 3000-level selective	Y	Y
ECOS3997	Y	Y

My majors have overlapping units of study. Can I count the units towards both majors?

Certain combinations of majors have units that overlap. For example, ECON1001 is a core unit for both the Economics and Financial Economics majors. You can count **up to two** overlapping **1000-level core units** towards two majors; however, you still need to complete the total number of credit points required for your degree, so you'll need to take elective unit(s) (from Tables A, S, O, or D) to make up the credit points for the 'double counted' units. For example, ECON1001 can count towards the Economics and Financial Economics majors, but you're still required to complete 144 cp to qualify for the Bachelor of Economics and therefore need to take a 6-cp elective unit to make up the credit points.

This situation also arises between certain School of Economics majors and majors offered by the Business School and Faculty of Science. For example, the 1000-level core units in the Finance major (Business School), BUSS1020 *Quantitative Business Analysis* and BUSS1040 *Economics for Business Decision Making*, are equivalent to ECMT1010 *Introduction to Economic Statistics* and ECON1001 *Introductory Microeconomics*, respectively and may count towards the Finance and Financial Economics majors. Note that Bachelor of Economics students are required to complete the core units specified for the Bachelor of Economics rather than equivalent units offered by other faculties.

2000- and 3000-level units **cannot** be 'double counted'. If a 2000-level core unit overlaps with another major, you must complete a 2000- or 3000-level selective unit from one of the affected majors in lieu of the overlapping unit.

The sample Bachelor of Economics plan below indicates how the 1000-level core units, ECON1001 and ECMT1010, contribute to both the Financial Economics and Finance (Business School) majors.

For further information, please visit the portal link:

[Studying Economics: School of Economics Student Portal](#)

Can't find the answer you're after?

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