Auburn University’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Economic Development

Administered by the Economic & Community Development Institute
Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Extension System

In Partnership with AU’s Graduate Programs in:
- Agricultural Economics
- Business Administration
- Community Planning Economics
- Education
- Public Administration / Public Policy
- Rural Sociology

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Description
The Graduate Minor in Economic provides Auburn University graduate students with an integrated, interdisciplinary education in economic development, while offering the academic rigor and marketability derived from in-depth and focused training within a discipline. The program is targeted to meet the graduate education needs of current and future economic development professionals, policy-makers and public or private sector employees whose duties involve economic development activities.

Program Overview
Economic developers face an exciting and challenging new environment characterized by an increasingly global economy and innovative partnerships between the public and private sectors. Academic economic development programs, particularly at the graduate level, can provide current and future professionals with the tools needed to lead successful community and regional economic development projects. However, few universities in the United States (and no other university in Alabama) offer graduate programs in economic development.

Recognizing this need, Auburn University established the Graduate Minor in Economic Development. Administered by the Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI), the Minor offers graduate students in Agricultural Economics, Business Administration, Community Planning, Economics, Education, Public Administration and Public Policy, and Rural Sociology with the opportunity to specialize in Economic Development.

Designed to address the state’s need for professional education and training in economic development, the program curriculum was developed with significant input from Alabama’s economic development community through a partnership with the Economic Development Association of Alabama. As a result, the Graduate Minor in Economic Development features a strong academic orientation along with the opportunity to engage in practical experiences through special research projects.

The Graduate Minor’s interdisciplinary curriculum provides students and practitioners with an excellent opportunity to build upon their existing knowledge and to acquire new skills in this challenging discipline.

Internship Opportunities
Many students enrolled in the Minor are required to complete an internship as part of their major program of study. Through connections with economic developers across the state, the Economic & Community Development Institute can assist students in locating internship opportunities in economic development.

Curriculum
Students may attach the Economic Development Minor to their degrees in: Agricultural Economics (MS and Ph.D.), Business Administration (MBA), Community Planning (MCP), Economics (MS), Education (Pending), Public Administration / Public Policy (MPA and Ph.D.), and Rural Sociology (MS).

Prerequisites
Eligibility for enrollment in the Graduate Minor is contingent upon the following:
- Undergraduate courses or demonstrated competence in micro- and macroeconomics or foundations of economics.
- English competency measured by appropriate test scores, a writing sample, and/or undergraduate coursework.

Required Courses
In order to meet the program requirements, students must complete the program’s core course, Economic Development and Competition, and attend the first week of ECDI’s Intensive Economic Development Training Course. Both of these courses are offered each summer.

POLI 7700 Economic Development and Competition Politics of economic development at the local, state and national level, especially the infrastructure offered by communities and the types of plans that might attract outside investment.

Intensive Economic Development Training Course Introduces participants to all phases of economic development. Program leaders and faculty are experienced in economic development strategies and techniques and have tailored the course to the expressed needs of economic developers in Alabama. The course has over 750 alumni, including most of the state’s top economic development professionals.
The unique interdisciplinary nature of the Graduate Minor offers students with the opportunity to design a concentration in focused economic development subject or practice areas. Graduate candidates must complete two courses, totaling at least 6 semester hours, outside of their home department. Students may choose from the following elective courses to meet this requirement:

**Agricultural Economics / Rural Sociology**

AGEC 7110 *Agricultural Economic Development* (Pre: ECON 2020). Conceptual and empirical analysis of economic development with emphasis on lesser developed areas and countries. Analysis of financial and technical aid to other countries and case studies of development problems.

RSOC 6610 *Rural Sociology* Theories and conceptual approaches to rurality in international and domestic contexts. Rural-urban differences in demographic composition, occupational structure, attitudes and values of rural people and regional cultures. Rural services and institutions as determinants of the quality of life.

RSOC 6640 *Sociology of Community Development* (Pre: SOCY 1000 or departmental approval). Principles of applied social change at the community level in both industrialized and non-industrialized settings; impacts of economic and technological changes on urban and rural communities; and citizen participation in community affairs.

RSOC 7620 *Sociology of Community* Theories, conceptual approaches and methods for studying communities and assessing developmental needs; attention to organizational and power structures, decision-making and linkage networks to societal units.

RSOC 7630 *Sociology of Natural Resources and the Environment* The social origins of contemporary environmental problems, emergence of environmentalism as a social movement within industrialized nations, and other topical issues.

**Business Administration / Economics**

BUSI 7130/7136 *Strategic Analysis and the Competitive Environment* (Prerequisite: departmental approval). Integrated course covering business strategy and the external environment in a global context.


ECON 6200 *Urban and Regional Economic Development* (Pre: ECON 2030 / ECON 2037, ECON 3020). Nature/causes of state/local economic development, including plant location, residential location, interregional trade and factor flows, public policy.

ECON 6600 *Business and Economic Forecasting* (Pre: ECON 2030 / ECON 2037, STAT 2610 / STAT 2010, or departmental approval). Interpretation of macroeconomic forecasting methods and development of competency in forecasting at the firm level.

ECON 6890 *Government Spending and Taxation* (Pre: ECON 3020 or departmental approval). Economic rationale for government expenditures, economic consequences of public spending, and methods of taxation and financing of government programs.

**Community Planning**

CPLN 6000 *History and Theory of Urban Form* The vocabulary and historical of urban design, focusing on the environmental and cultural forces that design, shape, build and redevelop the urban fabric.

CPLN 6100 *Urban Design Methods* (Pre: senior level or departmental approval). Techniques and methodologies in urban design problem-solving and strategies for implementation.

CPLN 6300 *Real Property Development* (Pre: fourth-year standing or departmental approval). Survey and analysis of the financial, legal, administrative, planning and design factors influencing the process of land development from the perspectives of developers, planners and consumers.

CPLN 7430 *Planning Law, Ethics and Implementation* This course covers three key elements of the planning profession: ethics, law and plan implementation.

**Education**

ADEF 7640 *Workforce Education* Identification and evaluation of basic skills problems in the workplace. Strategies for addressing workplace education issues.

CTCT 6080/6086 *Coordination and Supervision of Work-Based Learning* (Pre: departmental approval). Coordination, placement, and supervision of students in work-experience programs; development of employability skills and habits in students.

CTCT 7000/7006 *Foundations of Career and Technical Education* Philosophical, historical, economic, and sociological perspectives of vocational education in relation to the organization of vocational education programs.

CTCT 7200/7206 *Career and Occupational Information* Trends and issues in occupational structure, job qualifications and requirements; sources of occupational information for new and emerging occupations; analysis of career education models.

**History**

HIST 7530 *Seminar in Southern Industrialization* Significant scholarly works and primary sources dealing with the history of industrialization and technology in the American South.

**Political Science**

POLI 6380 *Seminar in Public-Private Management* Theory and practice of the roles of the public and private sectors in the provision, production and delivery of traditional public services. Credit will not be given for both POLI 6380 and POLI 5380.