Research topics of high policy relevance include effects of freeway toll lanes and minimum wages, the use of “social safety net” programs by legal immigrants who aren’t yet citizens, and factors influencing fuel-efficient car purchases.

Economics is one of the largest and most popular majors at UCI with more than 1,600 undergrads in business, quantitative or general economics. Graduates are consistently placed in leading corporate careers and top economics and business graduate programs.

The 75+ student doctoral program is among the university’s top producers of Ph.D.s. The department encourages interdisciplinary collaboration; students pursuing the Ph.D. may earn a concurrent master’s degree through UCI’s Department of Statistics and participate in research activities through a number of school-sponsored centers.

UCI economics research findings are regularly published in top economics journals and featured in local and national media. Graduate and faculty research in traffic and congestion, labor, travel, market trends, clean air and alternative energy has influenced public policy from Sacramento to Washington, D.C. and is helping to define innovative solutions to changing societal needs.
alumni & rankings:
Undergraduate and graduate alumni have gone on to pursue careers in academic and professional environments including:

- Colby College
- Federal Reserve Board of Governors
- Purdue University
- SUNY Buffalo
- Tulane University
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of State
- University of Oklahoma
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- World Bank
- Cornerstone Research

U.S. News & World Report ranks the economics graduate program in the top 50 in the country.

faculty

Marianne Bitler (Ph.D., MIT)
public and labor economics, econometrics

Daniel Bogart (Ph.D., UCLA)
economic history, infrastructure, economic development

William Branch (Ph.D., University of Oregon)
macroeconomics

David Brownstone (Ph.D., UC Berkeley)
econometrics, transportation economics

Jan Brueckner (Ph.D., Stanford University)
urban economics, public economics, industrial organization

Jean-Paul Carvalho (Ph.D., University of Oxford)
game theory, culture, norms, institutions

Jiawei Chen (Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University)
industrial organization, econometrics, finance

Damon Clark (Ph.D., University of Oxford)
education, labor and public economics

Linda Cohen (Ph.D., Caltech)
political economy, industrial organization, government policy

Yingying Dong (Ph.D., Boston College)
applied econometrics & microeconomics, labor, education, health

Michelle Garfinkel (Ph.D., Brown University)
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Amihai Glazer (Ph.D., Yale University)
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macroeconomic theory, decision theory, game theory

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Gary Richardson (Ph.D., UC Berkeley)
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Jose Antonio Rodriguez-Lopez (Ph.D., UC Berkeley)
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Kevin Roth (Ph.D., Cornell University)
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Donald Saari (Ph.D., Purdue University)
mathematics, applications of dynamical systems to social sciences

Stergios Skaperdas (Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University)
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