

Careers for Economists

Analytical skills, a strong quantitative background, and clarity and precision of expression are qualities developed in the economics major. Additionally, knowledge of the operations of a complex economic system and its institutions provides skills applicable to a wide variety of job responsibilities in a number of occupational areas.

The skills listed below are representative of those acquired from the study of economics, and may be applied in various occupations. For example, an investment banker, a technical writer, and an urban planner might use analytical thinking skills on a daily basis, although for different purposes.

For more information, check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics Report on the Economics Profession](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos055.htm). [[link to: www.bls.gov/oco/ocos055.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos055.htm)]

■ Financial

- 1) Maintaining accurate records
- 2) Tabulating figures
- 3) Manipulating numerical data
- 4) Developing budgets
- 5) Performing cost/benefit analyses
- 6) Creating and evaluating financial reports

■ Research/Analysis

- 1) Designing projects
- 2) Generating/developing ideas
- 3) Organizing materials
- 4) Computing data
- 5) Analyzing results
- 6) Testing an idea/hypotheses
- 7) Using computers
- 8) Applying statistical methods

■ Communication

- 1) Writing reports/articles
- 2) Summarizing
- 3) Writing proposals
- 4) Justifying a position
- 5) Reading and interpreting reports
- 6) Speaking persuasively
- 7) Explaining ideas/goals

■ Problem Solving

- 1) Assessing needs
- 2) Defining problems
- 3) Reviewing/evaluating goals
- 4) Relating theory to practice
- 5) Projecting/forecasting results
- 6) Applying quantitative analysis
- 7) Generating solutions
- 8) Evaluating policies