Economics is a way of thinking about every aspect of human behavior. At its core, the “economic approach” is the application of basic principles of logic and rational choice to business decisions, public policy issues and everyday life.

Clemson’s economics department provides students with a rigorous, analytical foundation for developing problem-solving skills. The department’s research and teaching programs draw significantly from the Chicago School tradition, which highlights the role of market forces in social organization.

A variety of courses are offered, enabling students to apply economic theory and quantitative analysis to topics such as economic development, environmental policy, labor markets, monetary policy and other important issues. Our graduates are sought after for positions in banking, finance and management. In addition, many students have gone on to obtain graduate degrees in economics, law, and business administration at schools such as Chicago, Duke, Oxford, Vanderbilt, Virginia, Yale and other top-tier universities.

We rank No. 8 among U.S. southern universities in faculty research productivity, according to a recent study that includes all U.S. colleges and universities located in the South which are designated as national institutions by U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges.” In the National Research Council Assessment of Doctoral Programs, our applied economics graduate programs ranked No. 2.
AWARD WINNING STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES

- Justin Giles was selected for the Boren Scholarship, geared toward students who want to work in the federal national security arena.
- Zachary Pate was named to the 2018 class of Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows. He was one of 16 rising juniors selected to spend six weeks studying leadership at Mount Vernon, Va., home of America’s first president.
- Alumna Emily Burchfield was interviewed by Fulbright Belgium regarding her participation in the College of Business dual degree program with Universite’ Catholique de Louvain. Since graduating cum laude, she is pursuing her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt.
- Alumnus Will Ensor has been a staff economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). Jesse Dennis and Brian Trainer served as student interns at the CEA.
- Alumni Dylan Bargar, Jason Marshall, Kaitlin Matheson, Rebecca Moore and Darby Voisin competed in and won first place at the 2015 National Collegiate Fiscal Challenge in Washington, DC.
- Ph.D. alumna Anna Chorniy was selected as a U.S. student participant at the 5th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economic Sciences, where nineteen Nobel Prize winning economists spoke with young economists from around the world. Chorniy is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University. Her work was recognized by the journal of Contemporary Economic Policy.

AWARD WINNING FACULTY LEADERS

- Scott Baier, Howard Bodenhorn, Gerald Dwyer, Robert Tamura and Paul Wilson received the University Research Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Award from Clemson for achieving the highest levels of national and international recognition.
- Thomas Hazlett holds the H.H. Macaulay Endowed Chair in Economics. William Dougan is an Alumni Distinguished Professor.
- Howard Bodenhorn received the Economic History Association’s Jonathan Hughes Award for Teaching Excellence in Economic History. Scott Baier, Molly Espey and Robert Fleck have also received university and national level awards for excellence in teaching.
- Scott Baier served as senior economist on the President’s Council of Economic Advisers. Gerald Dwyer is an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute's Center for Money and Financial Alternatives. Dwyer also served as director of the Center for Financial Innovation and Stability, and vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Thomas Hazlett served as chief economist at the Federal Trade Commission. Raymond Sauer served as president of the North America Association of Sports Economists.
- Scott Baier, Howard Bodenhorn, William Dougan, Andrew Hanssen, Matt Lewis, Robert Tamura and Paul Wilson have all served as editor or co-editor for academic journals and major university presses.
- Howard Bodenhorn was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study 19th century financial institutions. Robert Fleck and Andrew Hanssen have served as national fellows at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and received the Julian Simon Fellowship from the Property and Environment Research Center. Thomas Hazlett served as a fellow at the AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.
- Scott Baier, Scott Barkowski, Gerald Dwyer, Robert Fleck, Matt Lewis and Robert Tamura have published multiple papers that received “Article Of The Year” awards from journals including Economic Inquiry, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Journal of International Economics, and Southern Economic Journal.
- Patrick Warren’s research on “Russian Trolls” has resulted in briefings presented to the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee, the Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Army Cyber Command.
- Scott Baier and Robert Tamura served as visiting scholars at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Paul Wilson served as visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and the Universite’ Catholique de Louvain.