

Utility Maximization: Majors Newsletter

Wesleyan Economics Dept • Oct. 2025

Please read our roughly monthly newsletter
and follow our instagram account ([wes_econ](#))!

1. Stata

Stata is the most commonly used software in Economics, which is why we use it exclusively in Econ 300 and in upper-level electives. Other software packages such as R and Python are used infrequently in economics. The American Economic Association's data editor [reported in May 2025](#) that Stata's dominant role reflects the stability of the software and programs, and ease of replication of existing research. In their [most recent survey](#) of economists, published in May 2020, 73% of respondents reported using Stata vs. just 4% for R and 2% for Python. So, the next time you use Stata: know that you're lucky to use the dominant software package in our field.

Want to learn additional packages? This is something that you should consider seriously as it not only increases your marketability but also enhances your ability to transition and work effectively in our ever-changing computing environment. Great, the [QAC has courses](#) that may be of interest.

2. Study Abroad Credit

Advice from the Fries Center for Global Study on **"How to get study abroad courses approved for the ECON major or toward graduation"**

Did you know that not all courses abroad are transferable to Wesleyan? **To ensure that you get credit for courses you want to take abroad, enter them in the Course Approval System, found at Wesportal – Academics – Study Abroad Information and Application – Course Approval System.** The appropriate department and the Office of Study Abroad will receive messages to approve the courses.

Pro tip: business courses, such as marketing or management, do NOT transfer, even toward graduation, unless you get them approved by a department other than ECON. They are not economics courses. Rarely, another department such as CSPL or PSYC may approve a business course, if it is interdisciplinary enough in nature.

Econ addition: to receive credit at the 200-level the course must have a prereq for the equivalent of Wesleyan's 101 or 110. To receive credit at the 300-level the course must have prereqs equivalent to Wes requirements at that level (some combo of 300, 301, and 302) and require a research project. As a result most classes transfer in only at the 200-level.

Note: most approval requests are reviewed within a calendar week, usually faster. If the department chair needs additional information, they'll reach out directly.

3. Major certification

In Economics this is done only in a student's final semester, and it is handled entirely by the department's administrative assistant and chair. Your advisor has no role.

4. AEA Summer Training Program

American University will be the 2026 host institution for the [American Economic Association Summer Training Program \(AEASP\)](#)—a prestigious and intensive experience that prepares talented undergraduates for doctoral programs in economics and related fields.

Each summer, participants engage in an 8-week, rigorous curriculum in mathematical methods, microeconomics, econometrics, and research methods. Participants will get to engage in hands-on research and become part of a lasting professional network. The program offers students the chance to take advantage of Washington, DC's high concentration of economists, think tanks, research institutions, and policy organizations.

Rising juniors and seniors are encouraged to consider applying to this program!

Students can register for info sessions using [this link](#).

A similar, but entirely separate, program for students who are ineligible for funding or the AEASP and are interested in academic careers is the [University of Chicago's Expanding Discovery in Economics+](#).



AEA Summer Training Program

June 1-July 24, 2026 • Washington, D.C.

- Intensive two-month residential program held at American University
- Two levels of study
- Course work in math, microeconomics, econometrics, and research methods
- Real-world experiences unique to the nation's capital

Application deadline: January 31, 2026

"Being a part of AEASP was a **rewarding** experience! It confirmed that pursuing a Ph.D. in economics was the journey for me and provided me with a **community** of so many like-minded individuals **passionate** about economics."

Judene Josephs, AEASP 2023, B.A. 2024, Howard University,
Economics Ph.D. student, Georgia State University

"It is **inspiring** to see the caliber of research the students are able to produce by the end of the program."

Jevay Grooms, AEASP 2016 and 2017,
2021 AEASP Research and Faculty Fellow

Register today for an upcoming information webinar



- October 15, 3pm EST
- October 20, 12pm EST
- October 30, 7pm EST
- November 5, 2pm EST



www.american.edu/cas/economics/aeasp/

5. Econ at Play

Introducing the new feature where each month we'll share a photo (and post it to the department's bulletin board) and students will submit their ideas of economics inspired captions *or* economics principles with a twist: wrong answers only.

We will have prizes for winning answers...and, the number of winners each month may vary proportionately to the quality and quantity of answers (and more than 1 submission per student is possible!). **All answers must be submitted by October 30!**

This month's photo is:



Submit responses here: <https://forms.gle/vxbaCnhaioneTVte8>

Mark your calendar!

This list only includes already confirmed events in the coming weeks. *There are more events coming!*

To get info about our events, please read emails from Mrs.

Lauder and follow our instagram account: [wes_econ](#)

Event	How to participate	Target audience
PREDOC Webinar Friday 10/10 11:45am-1pm Frank 001	To learn about pre-doctoral research assistantships in the quantitative social sciences, join the zoom with Stephen Lamb (U Chicago). <i>The department provides lunch.</i>	Seniors and juniors interested in academic and research careers
Research seminar Wednesday 10/15 4:20-5:30pm Frank 301	Seminar - April Meehl (Haverford College) will present "Bailouts, Bail-ins, and Banking Industry Dynamics".	Majors
Econ Smorgasboard Thursday 10/30 11:50-1pm Frank 100	Many economics professors will each speak briefly about a current research project. <i>The department provides lunch.</i>	All students
Research seminar Wednesday 11/5 4:20-5:30pm Frank 301	Seminar - Seoyeon Jo (Wesleyan) will present her research	Majors
Trivia Night Thursday 11/6 7-9pm Frank 100	Jenny Cook '26 will host the Department's first ever Econ Trivia Night. <i>The department is sponsoring prizes galore and snacks.</i>	All students