

Course Resources

Discussion Boards

I use discussion boards for this course. You should feel free to post AND ANSWER questions on the boards. **I do not mind if people use the board to share answers to the homework questions before the assignment is due**, though I will not respond and say whether the posted answer is right or wrong.

No extra credit is given for participating on the boards but: board response time may be faster than mine; your class cohort may answer questions that I am not willing to answer or answer them in a different (and better) way. When my time is short, I prioritize answering questions on the board above answering email.

On the flip side: it may be helpful to think of questions on the board as practice questions. Trying to answer someone's question is a good way to test your own knowledge of the material. It is better to give a wrong answer on the board and be corrected than being wrong on a graded assessment.

Recorded Videos

If technology and university policy allows, the TAs and I will record the second live class session and each discussion section. Office hours will not be recorded. **For the privacy of others (FERPA and privacy laws), you should not record office hours, classroom discussion, or any one-on-one meetings without permission.**

Teaching Notes

My detailed teaching notes will never be made available for you. Ever. I will, however, post slides I use in each lecture.

Office Hours

Everything in this course is "blind-graded" (students' identities are concealed during the grading process) therefore, attending office hours to incur favorable grading will not work.

- Office hours are open for meetings and discussion with any student enrolled in one of my classes. I will have both appointment-based and drop-in office hours. I will see multiple students at the same time during drop-in hours.
- During office hours: I or the TA answer or guide questions about the homework material, re-teach material in a different way for students who were in class but feel they do not understand it as it was presented, or elaborate on extensions/implications of the material. We will not check your homework answers but can help you with concepts. The difference between the two is in how you phrase your question... (drop by during office hours to learn the difference!)
- The office hours closest to the homework due date are the busiest and focused on that week's homework, the office hours furthest away are the quietest. Choose the office hours that match your goal. Bring your class notes or existing work on the homework problem for reference.
- I have separate office hours for general advising, economics discussions, or meetings about topics not related to course material. You can come to these "Econ department office hours" regardless of whether you are (or have ever been) in one of my classes or not. These "Econ office hours" are emailed to the Econ Major list host at the beginning of the quarter, and are also posted outside the Econ Department Undergrad office.
- Outside of class and office hours, my time is already allocated to other aspects of my job. I am generally not available for impromptu (drop-in) meetings, though I may be available for scheduled meetings with enough planning time.

Economics Department Resources

Helpful Email Lists

At the bottom of the [Undergraduate Econ webpage](#)ⁱ are email sign-ups for undergraduate econ-targeted announcements about available internships, research assistant jobs, opportunities for majors (for example, joining the Fed Challenge team), or graduate school preparation. You can also find paid and unpaid research opportunities for undergraduates in the [CCRF research opportunity database](#)ⁱⁱ.

Economics RSO's

[Oeconomica](#)ⁱⁱⁱ has year-round cohorts focused on reading and synthesizing economic research articles. They also have review sessions and run the Econometrics Game. Feel free to let me know if there are other RSOs and I will add them to this section.

Econ Department Office Hours

Every quarter I (and all other instructional professors and lecturers in economics), have weekly non-course specific office hours for current, past, or potential econ majors to discuss anything. You can come and talk to me (or any of us) during these times even if you are not currently in a class we are teaching. These times and Zoom room ID or office hours are emailed out to the econ majors email list (see "Helpful Email Lists", below).

Letters of Recommendation

Send me an email that includes (1) a link to the program to which you are applying, (2) your current resume, (3) your transcript (unofficial is OK), (4) a brief statement that lists 3-4 things that *my* letter can convey which other letter writers cannot. I usually do not write letters of recommendation for students I've only had in one class, or for students who cannot articulate an answer to item 4. I will occasionally make exceptions to this if you were a frequent, active participant in class or on the discussion boards.

Campus Resources

Mental Health Services 773-702-4156

Students differ in how much they know about mental health services. In the USA your use of mental health services is not linked to your academic file; it is confidential. In general, psychiatrists assign medication while psychologists will talk with you. Both are trained to help you get the kind of assistance you need.

There are no rewards for "toughing it out". If you experience mental, physical, or other problems immediately contact [Student Health and Counseling Services](#)^{iv} (SHCS). I provide all accommodations officially requested by SHCS. These are 3 programs I know students use:

- [Let's Talk](#)^v: Drop-in; doesn't require an appointment.
- [Therapy Groups](#)^{vi}: For people going through similar tough experiences.
- [Counseling](#)^{vii}: Short-term. Focused on a specific issue, with a short-term goal.

SHCS offers Health and Wellness initiatives as well, including the [Academic Skills Assessment Program \(ASAP\)](#)^{viii}, which helps students improve their academic performance by addressing a number of issues that can interfere with effective learning, including time management, learning and memory, test anxiety, reading effectiveness, effective exam preparation, and general study skills. The ASAP program offers quarterly workshops and brief one-on-one appointments.

Health

It is easy to think that you should “just push through” and finish assignments, even if you are exhausted. This is bad. Your brain is responsible for your future success and it needs to be taken care of—that means taking care of yourself. If you are exhausted you can neither think creatively, nor reason soundly. Take a break! It is not laziness; it is self-preservation to make sure you will thrive for future years. Learn how to set and enforce these boundaries: plan blocks of “recovery and rejuvenation time” in whatever form that works for you.

SDS Services

Your use of any accommodation from SDS is confidential and is not recorded on your transcript, nor may I (or anyone else) discuss your use of it. I do not need to know why you received accommodation. Remember that **SDS may take some time (1-3 weeks)** to process your request -- perhaps longer in the current environment -- and you may need to get certification and diagnosis as well. Apply early in the quarter if there is *any* chance that you will need accommodation. You are not required to use the accommodation you receive.

College Core Tutoring Program

There is a [volunteer tutor program](#)^{ix} available for some courses. I do not coordinate or interact with the tutoring program in any way. I provide links for on-campus writing resources on the Policy Paper assignment page.

Center for College Student Success

[CCSS](#)^x provides mentoring services to help first-generation, lower-income, and immigrant students succeed in environments like the one at The University of Chicago. Note: “first-generation students” is a broader definition than many realize and can include students whose parents have degrees but did not have a university experience that translates to The University of Chicago.

Career Advancement

[Career advancement](#)^{xi} has substantial experience working with economics undergraduates to find careers that match their interests – they have far more resources to advise you than I do. Visiting them early will help you make informed choices about classes and/or majors.

Technology Resources

Laptop Rentals

If you find that your computer is slow or too old to work efficiently, you may be able to borrow a laptop at no charge for up to 8 hours from the [Tech Bar at Regenstein](#)^{xii}. At the time of writing, they are not sure the program will be available.

Many public libraries in the United States offer a similar service for their patrons. For example, [Chicago Public Library](#)^{xiii} has laptops, scanners, and Internet-to-Go-WIFI available for lending.

cVPN & vLAB

Many campus network resources require you to be on-campus to access them. If you are not on campus, you should use the (free) university-provided VPN ([cVPN](#))^{xiv} to gain access. Essentially, this makes online university services treat you “as-if” you were using a computer on campus.

[vLAB](#)^{xv} (Virtual Lab) creates a virtual desktop that you can use to access programs typically installed on campus computers. To access it from off-campus, you need to use the cVPN. Programs include everything from Excel to Stata, R to MATLAB. Explorer and Firefox are also included, which may be useful for interacting with certain websites.

Submitting Work on Gradescope

- A “how-to-submit” video and detailed guide are available [here](#)^{xvi}. Instructions on how to submit assignments as a group on Gradescope are [here](#)^{xvii}.

- Gradescope has native TeX integration: if you type x_i^2 it will appear as x_i^2 – the dollar signs indicate an equation environment. Make sure your pictures are clearly visible and correctly oriented. You should only submit the images relevant to the question you are answering (not answers to other questions): crop images to ensure this.

Technical Assistance with Gradescope and Canvas

You should use the “help” feature on Canvas (in the grey sidebar) for Canvas-specific issues. The Canvas Support staff are available 24/7/365. If you have problems on Canvas, also use the “report a problem” feature in that same menu. **Gradescope has a “contact us” email in their FAQ section.**

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ⁱ Undergraduate Econ <https://economics.uchicago.edu/content/undergraduate-program>

ⁱⁱ CCRF Research Opportunity Database <https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/research-opportunity-search>

ⁱⁱⁱ Oeconomica <https://voices.uchicago.edu/oeconomica/>

^{iv} Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/>

^v SHCS Let’s Talk <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/lets-talk/>

^{vi} SHCS Therapy Groups <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/therapy-groups/>

^{vii} SHCS Counseling <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/counseling/>

^{viii} Academic Skills Assessment Program (ASAP) <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/academic-skills-assessment-program/>

^{ix} Tutor Program <https://college.uchicago.edu/academics/college-core-tutor-program>

^x Center for College Student Success <https://college.uchicago.edu/student-services/center-college-student-success>

^{xi} Career Advancement <https://careeradvancement.uchicago.edu/about>

^{xii} Tech Bar at Regenstein: <https://its.uchicago.edu/techbar/techbar-equipment-lending-terms-and-conditions/>

^{xiii} Chicago Public Library <https://www.chipublib.org/library-laptop-use-guidelines/>

^{xiv} cVPN <https://its.uchicago.edu/2018/09/11/training-tip-cvpn/>

^{xv} vLAB <https://academictech.uchicago.edu/vlab/>

^{xvi} Gradescope (Get Started) https://www.gradescope.com/get_started#student-submission

^{xvii} Group Assignments on Gradescope <https://help.gradescope.com/article/m5qz2xsnjy-student-add-group-members>