

Certificate in Economic Policy Analysis

OSUN Economic Democracy Initiative

The OSUN Economic Democracy Initiative is launching a new undergraduate Certificate in Economic Policy Analysis in 2022, subject to final OSUN approval. The goal of the certificate is to educate the next generation of policymakers working to address the structural determinants of inequality, with a focus on unemployment, income and wealth poverty, and discrimination.

The novel approach of this certificate is that it combines the tools and skills students can only get by learning about the diversity of traditions in economics and an appreciation of economic history. It offers training in cutting-edge analytical techniques to tackle twenty-first century's problems in a holistic manner.

The certificate is built to allow students interested in policymaking to supplement their economics education with insights from other disciplines.

None of today's complex challenges, from climate change and inequality to racial justice and economic security, fit neatly within the confines of a single academic discipline. Addressing these problems therefore requires policymakers to take a multifaceted approach, incorporating diverse perspectives and methods into their actions.

What does the Certificate in Economic Policy analysis entail?

In completing the requirements for the certificate, students will:

1. Expand the scope and methods of their inquiries through instruction in diverse economic paradigms, not typically emphasized in traditional curricula.
2. Interrogate questions of employment, inequality, and economic (in)security.

Upon completion of the certificate, students will have a deeper understanding of the history behind many of today's economic policy discussions and be equipped with tools to conduct their own policy analysis and research in a multidisciplinary manner. Each of the courses fulfilling the requirements of the Certificate contribute to this outcome.

Requirements

Courses: The Certificate in Economic Policy Analysis consists of two required core courses and three electives. To earn the Certificate, students must complete a total of five (5) courses for a total of 15 US or 30 ECTS credits. Two of these courses must be OSUN Network Collaborative Courses (or OSUN Summer courses with approval). The remaining three courses may be part of the regular curriculum of the student's home institution and/or OSUN courses which fulfill the Certificate's methods and additional elective course requirements. A student may complete the certificate with approved courses previously taken at a participating OSUN institution.

Core Courses (required)

1. OSUN Economic History course (Right to Employment OSUN Course or related economic history course)
2. OSUN History of Economic Thought course (Economic Perspectives for Policy Making OSUN Course or related policy-focused history of economic thought)
3. One elective course in applied data analysis with applications for policy, offered by the home institution.
4. Two elective courses focused on public policy with a strong preference for courses taught in disciplines beyond economics such as law, sociology, political science, etc.

Students will be required to prepare a policy brief and virtual presentation at the end of their program. This requirement can be fulfilled by completing a policy paper and presentation for one of the courses taken for the certificate.

Note: with permission, one of the courses can be substituted by attending the EDI OSUN Summer Workshop. For details see edi.bard.edu.

Who is eligible?

Undergraduate students across the Open Society University Network.

Admission to the program

To ensure timely progression through the students' degree program, each student will be required to obtain approval from their program advisor as part of the application process. Students must request that their advisor send an email to their OSUN institution address endorsing their application. Students will include a copy of the email with their application. Prior to submitting an application, students should have completed one of the course requirements. The certificate will be acknowledged on each student's transcript.