

## THE FIELD

Resource economics is an applied field of economics in which quantitative techniques and economic principles are combined to study private and public decision-making related to environmental and natural resource issues. Resource economists are trained in decision-making and crafting policies designed to address the entire micro–macro spectrum of issues ranging from writing policies to confronting problems when markets alone fail to deliver optimal outcomes. Areas of employment range from management, marketing, and administration to research, education, consulting, and regulatory activities. Although most graduates accept jobs immediately after completing the bachelor of science (BS) degree, the program also provides excellent preparation for graduate school when supplemented with additional math courses.

*A minor in resource economics is available.*

## THE MAJOR

Required coursework includes UMass Amherst's General Education requirements, a common departmental core of 12 courses, and 10 additional courses in the environmental and natural resource economics specialization. Departmental core courses have been selected to provide a firm foundation in economic theory and quantitative analysis and a well-rounded perception of how our economic system works. They provide a base of understanding on which to build an applied economics specialization in environmental and natural resource economics. Students are allowed considerable flexibility within the major. By careful selection of courses, it is possible to design a program that prepares a student for employment in a specific career or that provides a strong foundation for graduate study. Some students also prepare for international careers.

## HONORS

Students may pursue honors opportunities within the major. Contact Commonwealth Honors College or the resource economics departmental honors coordinator ([honors@resecon.umass.edu](mailto:honors@resecon.umass.edu)) for more information.

## STUDY ABROAD

Majors are encouraged to study abroad if it supports their academic and career goals. Students should contact the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, [umass.edu/ipo](http://umass.edu/ipo)) and work closely with their academic advisor to choose the appropriate courses in preparation.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A degree in resource economics prepares students to assist in making sustainable public and private decisions about environmental and natural resource issues. Population and income growth are increasing the pressure on our environment and resources, making allocation, management, and protection decisions among our top priorities. Water quality and supply, land use, energy use, air pollution, climate change, pesticide policy, recycling, waste disposal, and marine fisheries management are some of the issues studied. Students learn to apply decision-making tools such as benefit-cost, risk benefit, and cost-effectiveness analysis. The training prepares students for careers in research, planning, education, and administration with federal, state, or community governments, as well as in private businesses that provide services in various sustainability, environmental, and natural resource areas. Also, it should be noted that many of our students continue their education in graduate school.

## **COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

The social and behavioral sciences focus on behavior and organization from cultural, social, and biological perspectives, examining people as both social and individual beings. Undergraduates in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences study culture, society, and individual and social interaction processes and learn methods by which knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences is created. Students are guided by the SBS Pathways approach, integrating their academic, experiential, and professional pathways. They anchor their knowledge in at least one discipline, but are encouraged to expand this knowledge through various broadening experiences inside and outside the classroom.

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