What courses are required for the economics major program?
The major requires a minimum of nine courses in economics, plus the equivalent of a year of calculus.

Introductory courses
Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ-111) – Offered both semesters, no pre-requisite.
Principles of Microeconomics (Econ-112) – Offered both semesters, no pre-requisite.
Calculus: Two semesters or equivalent, taken in the Math Department (see below).

Intermediate courses – offered every semester – enrollment limited to majors
Statistics: One course (Econ-249) – May be taken after completion of one principles course.
Microeconomics (Econ-255) - May be taken once both principles and calculus are complete.
Macroeconomics (Econ-256) - May be taken once both principles and calculus are complete.

Electives – four courses, of which at least three must be 300-level; one may be 200-level.
200 level elective (1) – These courses require completion of both semesters of principles. They are numbered between 200 and 248, or 299 (Topics). Examples: Environmental Economics (Econ-224); or Economics of Sports (Econ-229).
300 level electives (3) – These courses require completion of one or both intermediate theory courses (Econ 255 - Microeconomics and Econ 256 – Macroeconomics), or one intermediate theory course plus Statistics (Econ-249). These electives are numbered between 300 and 399. Examples: Theory of International Trade (Econ-307); Comparative Economic Systems (Econ-309); Econometrics (Econ-314); or Economics of Peace, Conflict and Defense (Econ-316).

Many economics majors interested in careers in business will also complete Financial Accounting (Ecoa-181) although it does not fulfill any of the major requirements.

What alternatives exist for completion of the calculus requirement?
Economics majors must complete the equivalent of one year of college calculus as a minimum requirement. Majors are strongly encouraged to take additional math beyond calculus.

To complete the minimum mathematics requirement, students may take:
Math 135 and Math 136 (Calculus I and II) This sequence is recommended for economics majors who desire to take additional math or prepare for graduate study in economics. (Students may also complete 133/134 (Calculus I and II with Fundamentals) which meets five days each week.)

Math 136 (Calculus II) Recommended for students with scores of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus-AB exam.

Students with a 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus-BC exam have fulfilled the calculus requirement for economics majors.
**Should I consider certain courses if I am interested in advanced study in economics?**
Students interested in advanced study in economics are encouraged to take Econometrics (Econ-314), Mathematical Economics (Econ-313), and additional courses in mathematics. They should also meet with the Graduate Studies Advisor, Prof Hsiaw.

**How do I apply to the Economics major?**
Students may apply for the major only after they have completed an economics course at Holy Cross. Applications are solicited in September and January of each year, and consist of an essay and an unofficial transcript. Admission is competitive and majors will be admitted based on their essay and performance in economics, calculus, and other relevant coursework.

**How will my AP credits impact my program?**
Students may receive advanced placement for Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics and Statistics if they earn scores of 4 or better on the appropriate AP tests. However, majors are still required to take at least nine economics courses while at Holy Cross. Majors will be required to replace each accepted AP course with an elective. Students who choose to take a course at Holy Cross for which advanced placement credit has been awarded will forfeit the AP credit.

**What if I want to study abroad or take classes in summer school?**
Economics majors are encouraged to participate in the College’s study abroad program and may complete certain courses in summer school if they are approved by the Department Chair. Students may take up to two courses for major credit while they are away from Holy Cross. These courses may include principles, statistics or electives as long as the courses are pre-approved, cover similar content and carry the same pre-requisites as Holy Cross economics courses. Students planning to study abroad should try to complete Microeconomics (Econ-255) by the end of the second year. Interested students should consult with the Department’s study abroad advisor (Prof Gottschang) or department chair.

**Are there opportunities for honors work or a research project?**
Students who will complete most of the intermediate coursework by the end of the first semester of the third year may apply for the department honors program in that semester. Honors students participate in a research methodology seminar in the second semester of both the third and fourth years; a thesis is written under the direction of a faculty advisor in the first semester of the fourth year.

The department also offers a summer program in which student research assistants each work individually with a faculty member on a research project, generally in the student’s third or fourth year. Please contact the Department’s Smith Charitable Trust Summer Research Fellows Director (Prof. Engelhardt) for more information.

Department website: [http://academics.holycross.edu/economics-accounting](http://academics.holycross.edu/economics-accounting)