UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Economics Department recognizes the many academic and extracurricular accomplishments of our majors with scholarships and awards. Information on how to apply for consideration for scholarships and awards is provided below and also on the Scholarship & Awards section of the Departmental website https://economics.illinois.edu/resources/awards-scholarships/undergraduate-scholarships/awards

General Application Information: Read the eligibility and application information under each scholarship carefully, as requirements differ. Students may apply for multiple scholarships and/or awards. A complete set of materials is required for each application. Students are encouraged to submit well-written and clear applications and (where required) original essays. All materials should accurately represent stated experiences and records, and the student code applies to all submitted materials. Use of the writing/career centers and other resources is appropriate and encouraged.

Selection: Applications are reviewed by a selection committee made up of the faculty and staff of the Economics Department which recommends awardees to the Department Head. Only complete applications received by the due date are considered. Nominees may be asked to provide additional information or verification of accomplishments at the request of the committee. All applicants will be notified of the outcome.

Recipients: Students receiving awards are recognized at a departmental scholarship & awards brunch and on the department’s website. A one-time monetary payment is dispersed through student accounts.

Spring 2023 Application Deadline:
Sunday March 12th by 11:59pm

ECONOMICS ALUMNI-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Read the specific eligibility requirements and instructions for each scholarship carefully. The Selection Committee determines the number of scholarships awarded each year.

Robert L. and Amelia Louise Rivers Scholarship (up to $400)

The Robert L. and Amelia Louise Rivers Scholarship is awarded to no more than two undergraduate Economics majors on the basis of academic merit. This scholarship was established in 2005 by a gift from Amelia Louise Rivers as a memorial for her husband, Robert L. Rivers, who died in 2003. Robert Rivers received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Illinois in 1947 and 1957, respectively. He retired as the UPS Professor of Transportation at North Carolina A & T State University.

Eligibility: The student must be a declared Economics major; have completed at least 60 hours of coursework, including at least 18 hours of economics, attained a minimum 3.0/4.0 grade point average in all UIUC economics/statistics courses, and attained a minimum 3.0/4.0 grade point average overall.

Application: Submit the online scholarship application, a résumé/CV, and a brief essay (250-500 words) addressing the question, “What distinguishes you as a student of economics?” Discuss why you find the subject of economics particularly compelling and the steps that you have taken beyond your classes to further your studies.

APPLY HERE: https://go.illinois.edu/RiversScholarship
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Shebik Centennial Economics Scholarship (up to $3,000)

The Shebik Centennial Economics Scholarship was created to provide financial need-based scholarships to students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who are majoring in economics. The Shebik family has a long legacy with the University of Illinois. In the Department of Economics, Mrs. Megan Shebik is a 1980 alumna with a career of 25 years of consulting in the field of philanthropy. Prior to that, she was employed with the Chicago branch of Kemper National Insurance, with her expertise focused in underwriting management. Mr. Steve Shebik is a 1978 alumnus of the College of Business with undergraduate degrees in Finance and Accountancy and an MBA from the University of Chicago in Finance and Statistics. Son Brian Shebik is a 2016 alumnus with degrees in Economics and Finance and the Master of Science in Analytics degree from the University of Chicago. Son Matthew Shebik is a 2018 alumnus with a degree in Economics and minors in both Statistics and Business. He also has a Master of Science in Finance degree from the Stuart School of Business at Illinois Technology, in Chicago. Daughter Sarah is a 2019 alumna with a Psychology major and a business minor and has a master’s degree in Forensic Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Steve’s mother, Mrs. Phyllis Shebik, is a 1938 alumna in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, general curriculum. The family has a long spanning history of volunteer work, philanthropy, and community involvement with broad reaching efforts in organizations like the Boy Scouts of America, the 1867 Society Council Registered Student Organization at the University of Illinois, non-profit charitable organizations, among others.

Eligibility: A currently declared Economics student who has completed at least one full-time semester at UIUC with unmet financial need, who demonstrates that the funds would go to support general educational attainment, alleviate some financial burden, and/or provide funding assistance towards an additional academic experience. Application: Submit the online scholarship application, a résumé/CV, and two essays. In the first essay (100-500 words), describe how your interest in economics developed and how you expect your economics major to contribute to your future education and/or career goals. In the second essay (100-500 words) explain how the financial support from the scholarship will aid you in advancing your education.

APPLY HERE: https://go.illinois.edu/ShebikScholarship

Michael and Christine Kolbuk Scholarship (up to $500)

The Michael and Christine Kolbuk Undergraduate Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate economics student in good academic standing, with preference given to first generation students who are not in the U.S. on a nonimmigrant student visa. Michael Kolbuk earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the department in 1971. Both he and his wife, Christine, are committed to supporting hardworking and meritorious students at the University of Illinois.

Eligibility: A currently declared Economics student who has completed at least 60 hours of coursework, including at least 18 hours of economics, has GPA no less than 3.0/4.0 grade point average in all UIUC economics/statistics courses; and has a minimum 3.0/4.0 grade point average overall. Application: Submit the online scholarship application, a résumé/CV, and a brief essay (250-500 words). The essay should describe your most meaningful achievements and their relationship to your economics major, and your future educational and/or career goals.

APPLY HERE: https://go.illinois.edu/KolbukScholarship
Susan Silver and Ross Erlebacher Economics Scholarship (up to $1,500)

Susan Silver graduated from the University of Illinois in 1988 with a B.A. in economics and became one of Chicago’s leading real estate brokers. Ross Erlebacher studied computer science at Illinois, finishing with an M.S. in 1989. He is a successful technology consultant. Susan and Ross married in 1992. The Susan Silver and Ross Erlebacher Scholarship was established to help students attending the University who may have unmet financial needs or may be members of under-represented groups.

Eligibility: A currently declared Economics student who has completed at least one full-time semester at UIUC with unmet financial need, who demonstrates that the funds would go to support general education attainment, alleviate some financial burden, and/or provide funding assistance towards an additional academic experience. Preference shall be given to underrepresented students.

Application: Submit the online scholarship application, a résumé/CV, and two essays. In the first essay (100-500 words), describe why you chose Economics as your major and how you use it in your everyday life/activities? In the second essay (100-500 words) explain how the financial support from the scholarship will aid you in advancing your education.

APPLY HERE: https://go.illinois.edu/SilverErlebacherScholarship