

ECONOMIC ANALYTICS, CERTIFICATE

When analyzing data, economists use many of the same statistical tools as other disciplines. However, economists have a tradition of formally combining data analysis with economic models, giving a different perspective on data and how to think about data analysis. This certificate will introduce students not majoring in Economics to this economic approach to data analytics.

An economist's approach to data analysis has two distinguishing features. First, economists traditionally interpret observational data through the lens of an economic model. This often leads to an explicit derivation of the data-generating process, typically involving individual optimization. Second, economists tend to focus on identification and causal inference more than many other disciplines. This involves looking for combinations of data and empirical approaches that allow empirical relationships to be interpreted causally.

This certificate will introduce students to this perspective and these tools by teaching students a mix of microeconomic theory, statistics and econometrics, and hands-on experience analyzing real data.