FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Is econ hard? Yes! Despite being a social science like psychology, sociology and politics, economics is better regarded along the lines of biology- a subject that is moderately difficult with terms and diagrams to learn (no labs though!).

Which is harder, micro or macro? This hinges greatly on the text selection and instructor but, if the same text and instructor are used for both, micro is slightly harder considering elasticity and competition.

Which is better to take first? In a world run by economists, micro would be required first to equip students with supply & demand before starting macro. However many programs require only one course in econ and many affected by such a policy choose only macro- which is why supply & demand is seen in both micro and macro. Micro is a good foundation for macro, but considering topics like elasticity and competition, micro tends to be more difficult and this is where macro first as a primer can be advantageous. So, the choice is fraught with trade-offs (sounds economic?!).

Which is more transferrable? Macro and micro always have the same number of credits and level number (100’s, 200’s etc.), but if macro is required by more programs then it has an edge in transferability.

Can I survive without the required text? -more so in micro than in macro!, as the latter is beset with controversy whereas micro has been the same for decades (even generations)

Is econ a good major? See below.

How is econ online? Economics undergoes the same transformation as any other subject when taught via cyberspace. But bear in mind, difficult courses deserve serious investigation when one is considering online instruction.

websites: (listed below are my top ten)
bls.gov
bea.gov
nber.org
ocecd.org
worldbank.org
imf.org
census.gov
epi.org
undp.org
bis.org