

ECON 97 - Economic Toolkit

Instructor: Patrick Molligo
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UCLA, Spring 2026

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM

Classroom: [Dodd Hall](#), Room 170

Office hours: Fridays 11AM-1PM (or by appointment), Bunche 2265, “Alper Room”

Course webpage: <https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/233157>

1. Course Description

This course covers essential mathematical and computing skills needed to study modern economics, with an emphasis on probability and statistics. We will review set algebra, combinatorics, probability theory, integral calculus, estimation, and other problem solving techniques used in Econ 41. Some lessons will focus on the basics of Excel and R (a statistical programming language) in order to prime you for future coursework at UCLA. The class will be organized into lectures, live coding, and exam practice sessions, but the exact schedule of topics will likely adjust during the quarter.

2. Corequisites

ECON 41

3. Grading

This is a Pass/No Pass course. Attendance is mandatory and participation is strongly encouraged. To receive credit you must attend at least 16 of the 20 meetings (80%).

Each class will begin with a brief, ungraded knowledge check using the iClicker app, which will also count as your attendance for that day. To set up a student account [follow the steps here](#).

4. Textbooks

You do NOT need to purchase any books for this class. I will post useful readings and links on the course webpage.

5. Center for Accessible Education (CAE)

Any student with a pre-existing illness or condition who requests special arrangements must (a) qualify under CAE rules for such special arrangements, and (b) take the exam with CAE. Any such arrangements with CAE must be communicated to the instructor during the first week of classes. For additional information, please visit the [CAE website](#). There are no exams in this class, so this is likely not relevant.

6. Academic Dishonesty

Any cases of cheating will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. For more details, please refer to the [Office of the Dean of Students website](#).

7. Topics and Schedule*

Week	Date	Topics/Activities
1	3/31/26	Introduction
	4/2/26	Review of concepts
2	4/7/26	Methods of Enumeration
	4/9/26	Coding Tutorial
3	4/14/26	Conditional Probability
	4/16/26	Random Variables
4	4/21/26	Probability Distributions
	4/23/26	Expected Values
5	4/28/26	Special Distributions
	4/30/26	Exam Review
6	5/5/26	Guest Speaker
	5/7/26	Continuous Distributions + Integrals
7	5/12/26	Multivariate Distributions
	5/14/26	Functions of Random Variables
8	5/19/26	Normal Distributions
	5/21/26	Central Limit Theorem
9	5/26/26	Estimation
	5/28/26	Hypothesis Testing
10	6/2/26	Coding Project Wrap-up
	6/4/26	Final Review

*Schedule is subject to change based on the pace of Econ 41.