

Ben Proctor, BA in Economics at the UofR (2005-2007), transferred to University of Victoria, BA in Economics (2011):

I had a funny feeling when I started as a general arts student at the University of Regina. Like when you're out of place at a party and you ask yourself, "what exactly am I doing here"? More school seemed like a path to a job sure, and it helped that I was making friends, but I really wasn't sure why I was there. I ventured aimlessly from one course to another with nothing really clicking. But lucky for me, the penny dropped after I took an Economics 100 course at the University of Regina. The subject matter was interesting, but it was really the fantastic instruction I received and the practical application of course material to solve real world problems that lit a big spark for me. Along the way I learned that not all economics courses or instructors are created equal, but I never once doubted my decision to pursue a bachelors in economics. The end result has been a rewarding career that my first year student-self would scarcely believe. I've worked at Canada's central bank and for regulatory bodies in British Columbia and Alberta. I've earned consulting income as an expert witness on ride-hailing, published op-eds on energy topics, and made TV appearances to lament Canadian dairy policies. I just recently returned home after a two-year stint in Washington, DC where I had a front row seat to the NAFTA renegotiation while working at a think tank specializing in Canada-U.S. relations. I owe a lot of my success to the excellent training I received while at the University of Regina. And, oh, by the way, that initial lesson that economics is a useful, consequential, and fascinating discipline which can be applied to resolve many of society's most pressing questions has never faded.