

Ryan Tessier, BA in Mathematics/Statistics with Certificate in Economics (2011):

Economics is about incentives! This is a fact that was imprinted firmly in my mind while studying economics at the University of Regina. The focus of the University of Regina's Economics department was always on incentives and motivations behind the behaviors we observe in the workplace. Behind the mathematical models we learned in class, there was always a focus on the intuition behind it. The professors and lecturers make sure to instill in us the "why" of the model instead of just the "how".

This is something that has helped me immeasurably in my career. I have moved from Saskatchewan Polytechnic instructor, into union leader, to department head and finally educational consultant and strategy development. The reason I have been able to thrive in such diverse roles is the focus on incentives instilled in me while studying Economics at the University of Regina.

As an instructor and academic department head, I had to understand how to motivate student performance and encourage engagement with their learning. As union leader, I needed to see the root causes behind disputes and understand how to incentivize optimal solutions. As an educational strategy consultant, I have to understand why course enrollments decline or increase, how to manage budgets and more importantly, why people purchase training. Instead of seeing the proximate effects of a business decision I understand why the agents involved are taking the actions they do. This allows me to build business solutions which consider the diverse need of my clients and helps us meet their needs.

What makes the University of Regina especially unique is how willing each professor is to engage with students. Throughout all the classes I took, the professors were eager to meet with students after class and join students for drinks at the Owl. The department had an open-door policy and the faculty were always able to help. This helped instill the principles they were teaching as you could really drill down deep into the theory when meeting with them after hours. This added a truly memorable touch to my education - I love University of Regina economics!