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See where economics can really take you.



Jose Bonilla

Company: San Francisco Giants

Current Role: Senior Director, International Operations & Baseball Administration

School: UC San Diego (Revelle)

Year: 2028

Major: Economics

Why did you major in economics?

I chose economics after struggling to find my path right away. As I looked further into economics, I really enjoyed how it grappled with thinking about real-world problems in strategic ways. I felt very strongly connected to the practical problem-solving and fact-based evaluation. It very much spoke to how I viewed micro and macro problems in the real world.

Favorite econ class or topic? Why?

It's hard to pick any one class. I enjoyed different facets of all my classes. I think game theory, in hindsight, is/was the most intriguing, particularly as it applies universally to so many industries and domains. Especially now, with a career in sports, I find it very practical.

Biggest econ myth you've heard—and why was it wrong?

From the perspective of a student: I recall thinking economics was just a subdivision of finance—that it was focused mostly on money, banking, and the stock market. It was much different than that. Studying economics was so much more about behavior and how different incentives alter behavior. Money and finance certainly have their place, but really, it was all about how tangible things can change and what causes those changes.

What advice would you give your first year self?

Above all else, I would tell myself that it's okay to fail. I was so wrapped up in fear of failure as a student that it derailed my ability to adapt to the environment I was in. I would tell myself it's okay to focus on one thing and do that well instead of trying to master multiple things and falling short.

Any fun, unexpected, or relatable story from studying econ?

A relatable and unexpected story is that I was able to apply my passion for baseball with my studies and interest in economics to pursue a career. I had an opportunity with Dr. Kate Antonovics at UCSD to take a seminar on sports and economics. That brief introduction reinforced my decision to take economics as well as motivated me to pursue a career in sports.

"I almost majored in..." (and why you stuck with econ).

I wouldn't say I almost majored in anything other than economics. But I did almost put all my eggs in a legal path. I thought about law both as an undergraduate focus and a postgraduate path. But I stuck with economics because it was so much more relatable and interesting to me. Economics provided me the opportunity to apply learned concepts in real time more quickly.

Scan here for more stories from other econ graduates.