VICKI MCCCRACKEN: A Major focus of business economics is data analysis skills and enabling students to take information about operation of businesses and studying where they are and where they might be going in the future. My name is Vicki McCracken. I've been a professor here at Washington State University for 32 years teaching economics to students at all different levels.

Students in this degree program develop the basic set of skills that they can take from industry to industry. That really is sort of the strength of the degree is you don't have to know what you want to do, but you have to be good at analyzing things.

You have to be good at numbers. And it doesn't mean really strong math, but it means comfortable using math, and then taking information and making sense out of it.

The university cares about students. And part of that caring about students is that faculty know the students in their classes. When I've taught online, I felt like I knew every student in the class and the life story of every student in the class.

We interact with students significantly by email, and those emails aren't simply about what is the answer to question six on exam two. But a lot of them are about what's happening in the students' lives.