

Assessment Plan

B.A. In Economics
2013 – 2014
School of Social Sciences
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Kean University

Mission:

The Economics Program seeks to provide a quality education to prepare students for graduate school or for employment in the private sector and for enlightened citizenship. The study of economics provides training in the use of economics tools and analysis to prepare students to think critically about potential or current problems such as unemployment and inflation; issues concerning international trade and economic development; the impact of government and public policies on markets and social welfare; economic activity and policy on the environment; and current and future global issues.

Assessment Process::

Economics students have 8 core courses including the capstone to take as part of the requirements for the major. These 8 core courses provide a sound backbone of the discipline with regard to the research and theoretical aspects of Economics as well as the various areas of study within the field. As such, these 8 core courses are the primary vehicle for assessing the knowledge of our students. Beyond the 8 core courses, students take 5 other Economics courses selected from a list of electives, and it is likely that no two (or very few) majors take the exact same grouping of courses. Therefore, the faculties have agreed to center our assessment on the core knowledge of Economics.

Each core course has assessment tools such as exams, research, and reflective writing assignments as part of the evaluation process and the economics program has used results of assessment for making improvements to program practices aimed at increasing student learning. For example, after collaboration, it was decided that Minitabs should be used to teach econometrics rather than Excel or Eviews.

Beginning Fall 2011, the culminating assignment(s) done in the capstone course, ECO 4500, has been identified as a direct measure for assessing attainment of our program Student Learning Outcomes. In this course, assessment data is collected from an assignment(s) that requires students to provide the evidence of meeting program goals. Each semester, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements. In addition, a systematic process for gathering data utilizing an indirect measure, the Graduating Student Survey, was established. Data from the student survey will also help inform our decision regarding program improvement to increase student learning.

Program Student Learning Outcome (SLOs) – as aligned with KU SLOs derived from the Institutional Mission* and GE SLOs. ** (Data from Direct and Indirect Measures collected each semester in the Capstone Course or a designated, end-of-program course.)

Students who graduate with a B.A. in Economics should be able to:

SLO1: Utilize economic tools and critical analysis to explore potential or current economic problems Such as unemployment, international trade and economic development. (KU 2, 3) (GE K2, S1, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: ECO 4500: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO2: Define and analyze the impact of government and public policies on markets and social welfare as well as economic activity and policy on the environment; and current and future global issues. (KU 1, 4) (GE K2, S1, S3, S4)

SLO3: Meet the National Council of Social Studies (NCSS) Standard 6.6 in Economics to prepare to teach high school Social Studies and successfully pass the appropriate Praxis II licensure exam. (KU 1, 3) (GE K2, S2, S1, S3, S4, S5)

SLO4: Articulate the importance of and practice working in partnership with and contributing to the community and promoting economic development. (KU 1, 4) (GE K3, S1, S2, S5)

Direct Measure: ECO 4500: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

SLO5: Examine the relationship among economics as the cornerstone of the business disciplines and the theoretical foundations for business school courses and subsequently for career in the business community. (KU 1, 3) (GE K2, S2, S1, S3, S4, S5)

Direct Measure: ECO 4500: Research paper scored with rubric to demonstrate achievement of program goals. **Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Survey

• **KU Student Outcomes: Kean University graduates should be able to:**

1. Think critically, creatively and globally,
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; ad
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)

**** General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

Student Learning Outcomes – **Knowledge:** Students **will** demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and content by:

(K1) applying the scientific method to understand natural concepts and processes;

(K2) evaluating major theories and concepts in social sciences;

(K3) relating historical references to literature; and
(K4) evaluating major theories and concepts in the fine arts.

Student Learning Outcomes – **Skills:** Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to:

- (S1) write to communicate and clarify learning;**
- (S2) communicate effectively through speech;**
- (S3) solve problems using quantitative reasoning;**
- (S4) think critically about concepts in multiple disciplines; and**
- (S5) show information literacy.**