

# Program Assessment Plan

## American University

### Academic Program: CAS: Economics - BA

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Contact Person for Mary Hansen

Assessment:

Unit's Primary Department: Economics

#### Learning Outcome: Micro Theory

Graduates of the undergraduate program will be able to use the micro model of market demand and supply to predict changes in price and output that result from exogenous changes.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

2011-2012

Start Date: 09/13/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

#### Assessment Plan

| Assessment Measure  | Target   | Schedule/Cycle   | Active |
|---|--|--|--------|
| <p>Test of Understanding of College Economics.</p> <p><b>Measure Type:</b><br/>Quiz/ Exam</p> <p><b>Related Documents:</b><br/>Appendix A</p> | <p>The average score exceeds the average score among Economics majors in the norming sample on Micro exam.</p> | <p>Each Fall term, the Undergraduate Studies Committee will coordinate with Capstone instructors to administer the Test of Understanding of College Economics to students enrolled in Capstone courses (ECON-480, -491, -492). Appendix A shows how the content areas of TUCE relate to Learning Outcomes 1-2. The Committee will include a summary of scores in the annual Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March.</p> | Yes    |
| <p>Capstone Instructors' Reports.</p> <p><b>Measure Type:</b><br/>Final Paper/ Final Project</p>  | <p>Capstone work shows that 75% of students show competence in the learning outcome.</p>                       | <p>Each January, the Undergraduate Committee will convene a meeting with Capstone Instructors to obtain their reports on the strengths and weakness of seniors based upon completed written assignments with respect to learning outcomes. The Committee will include notes from the meeting in the annual Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March.</p>  | Yes    |
| <p>Focus Group of Seniors.</p> <p><b>Measure Type:</b><br/>Focus Group</p>  | <p>75% of students feel confident in their ability to use micro theory.</p>                                    | <p>Prior to March 1 each year; the Undergraduate Studies Committee will convene a focus group of graduating seniors. the Committee will summarize the proceedings of the focus group in the Undergraduate Assessment</p>   | No     |

### Assessment Plan

| Assessment Measure   | Target   | Schedule/Cycle  | Active |
|--|--|---|--------|
| Survey of majors.<br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Survey<br><b>Related Documents:</b><br>Survey of Majors | 75% of majors feel confident in their ability to use micro models. | Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March.<br><br>Each spring USC will conduct a survey of students and report results to the Council by March 15. | Yes    |

#### Related Courses

- ECON-322 - Intro to Econometrics
- ECON-480 - Senior Research Seminar
- ECON-491 - Internship
- ECON-492 - Internship in Teaching Economics

#### Learning Outcome: Macro Theory

Graduates of the undergraduate program will be able to use macroeconomic models to explain the changes in output, employment, inflation, and growth.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

2011-2012

**Start Date:** 08/13/2010

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

### Assessment Plan

| Assessment Measure   | Target  | Schedule/Cycle   | Active |
|--|---|--|--------|
| Test of Understanding of College Economics.<br><br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Quiz/ Exam<br><b>Related Documents:</b><br><a href="#">Appendix A</a> | The average score exceeds the average score among Economics majors in the norming sample on the Macro exam. | Each Fall term, the Undergraduate Studies Committee will coordinate with Capstone instructors to administer the Test of Understanding of College Economics to students enrolled in Capstone courses (ECON-480, -491, -492).<br>Appendix A shows how the content areas of TUCE relate to Learning Outcomes 1-2. The Committee will include a summary of scores in the annual Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March. | Yes    |
| Capstone Instructors' Reports.<br><br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Final Paper/ Final Project   | Capstone work shows that 75% of students show competence in the learning outcome.                           | Each January, the Undergraduate Committee will convene a meeting with Capstone Instructors to obtain their reports on the strengths and weakness of seniors based upon completed written assignments with respect to learning outcomes. The Committee will include notes from the meeting in the annual Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each  | Yes    |

### Assessment Plan

| Assessment Measure   | Target  | Schedule/Cycle  | Active |
|--|---|---|--------|
|  |   | March.  |        |
| Focus Group of Seniors.<br><br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Focus Group   | 75% of students feel confident in their ability to use macro models.    | Prior to March 1 each year; the Undergraduate Studies Committee will convene a focus group of graduating seniors. the Committee will summarize the proceedings of the focus group in the Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March. | No     |
| Survey of majors.<br><br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Survey<br><br><b>Related Documents:</b><br><a href="#">Survey of Majors</a> | 75% of majors will feel confident in their ability to use macro models. | Each spring USC will conduct a survey of students and report results to the Council by March 15.  | Yes    |

#### Related Courses

- ECON-480 - Senior Research Seminar
- ECON-491 - Internship
- ECON-492 - Internship in Teaching Economics

#### Learning Outcome: Key Economic Institutions

Graduates of the undergraduate program will be able to describe the function of key economic institutions.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

2011-2012

**Start Date:** 09/13/2010

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

### Assessment Plan

| Assessment Measure   | Target  | Schedule/Cycle   | Active |
|--|---|--|--------|
| Capstone Instructors' Reports.<br><br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Final Paper/ Final Project | Capstone work shows that 75% of students show competence in the learning outcome.         | Each January, the Undergraduate Committee will convene a meeting with Capstone Instructors to obtain their reports on the strengths and weakness of seniors based upon completed written assignments with respect to learning outcomes. The Committee will include notes from the meeting in the annual Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March. | Yes    |
| Focus Group of Seniors.<br><br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Focus Group                       | 75% of students feel confident in their ability to describe function of key institutions. | Prior to March 1 each year; the Undergraduate Studies Committee will convene a focus group of graduating seniors. the Committee will summarize the proceedings of the focus group in the Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March.  | No     |

### Assessment Plan

| Assessment Measure   | Target  | Schedule/Cycle   | Active |
|--|---|--|--------|
| Survey of majors.<br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Survey<br><b>Related Documents:</b><br>Survey of Majors | 75% of majors feel confident in their ability to describe function of key institutions. | Each spring USC will conduct a survey of students and report results to the Council by March 15. | Yes    |

### Learning Outcome: Data & Analysis

Graduates of the undergraduate program will be able to find information on prices indices, employment and unemployment, world-wide GDP and human development statistics; organize and manipulate the data in spreadsheets and statistical programs; and interpret statistical results.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011

2011-2012

**Start Date:** 09/13/2010

**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

### Assessment Plan

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|--|---|--|--------|
| Capstone Instructors' Reports.<br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Final Paper/ Final Project                 | Capstone work shows that 75% of students show competence in the learning outcome. | Each January, the Undergraduate Committee will convene a meeting with Capstone Instructors to obtain their reports on the strengths and weakness of seniors based upon completed written assignments with respect to learning outcomes. The Committee will include notes from the meeting in the annual Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March. | Yes    |
| Focus Group of Seniors.<br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Focus Group                                       | 75% of students feel confident in their ability to find and analyze data.         | Prior to March 1 each year; the Undergraduate Studies Committee will convene a focus group of graduating seniors. the Committee will summarize the proceedings of the focus group in the Undergraduate Assessment Report presented to the Chair and the Council each March.  | No     |
| Survey of majors.<br><b>Measure Type:</b><br>Survey<br><b>Related Documents:</b><br>Survey of Majors | 75% of students feel confident in their ability to find and analyze data.         | Each spring the USC will conduct a survey of students and report results to Council by March 15.   | Yes    |

### Related Action Steps

\* Supporting Assessment: Integration of Data Assignments

**Description:** USC will undertake activities to promote integration of finding and analyzing data into courses.