Program Assessment Plan

American University

Academic Program: CAS: Economics - BA

Contact Person for Assessment: Mary Hansen
Unit Website Address: http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/index.cfm
Unit’s Primary Department: Economics
COLA Reader -1: Brian Yates
COLA Reader -2: Younghee Sheen

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: 2007 and prior
2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012

Start Date: 09/13/2010
Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test of Understanding of College Economics.</td>
<td>The average score exceeds the average score among Economics majors in the norming sample on Micro exam.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

Measure Type: Quiz/ Exam
Related Documents: Appendix A

Capstone Instructors' Reports.

Measure Type: 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
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<tr>
<td>Focus Group of Seniors.</td>
<td>75% of students feel confident in their ability to use micro theory.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey of majors.</td>
<td>75% of majors feel confident in their ability to use micro models.</td>
<td>Each spring USC will conduct a survey of students and report results to the Council by March 15.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Related Courses**
- ECON-200 - Microeconomics
- ECON-300 - Intermediate Microeconomics
- ECON-317 - Political Economy
- ECON-318 - Economic History
- ECON-319 - United States Economic History
- ECON-320 - History of Economic Ideas
- ECON-325 - Social Choice and Economic Justice
- ECON-341 - Public Economics
- ECON-345 - Introduction to Game Theory
- ECON-346 - Competition, Regulation, and Business Strategies
- ECON-351 - Comparative Economic Systems
- ECON-353 - Economic Transformation of Central/Eastern Europe
- ECON-358 - Economics of the World Regions
- ECON-361 - Economic Development
- ECON-362 - Microeconomics of Economic Development
- ECON-370 - International Economics
- ECON-371 - International Economics: Trade
- ECON-373 - Labor Economics
- ECON-374 - Gender Roles in the Economy
- ECON-379 - Economics of Environmental Policy
- 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
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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

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**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

| Focus Group of Seniors. | 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 |

**Measure Type:**
Focus Group

| 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 |

**Measure Type:**
Survey

**Related Documents:**
Survey of Majors

**Related Courses**
- ECON-100 - Macroeconomics
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

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**Related Action Steps**

* Supporting Assessment: Integration of Data Assignments
  **Description:** USC will undertake activities to promote integration of finding and analyzing data into courses.