

Assessment Plan

Western Michigan University

Economics

Outcome: Acquire a thorough understanding of economic theory and its applications

Students must have knowledge of core microeconomic and macroeconomic theory. Students must have a working knowledge of mathematical and statistical concepts used in economic analysis. Students must have the ability to apply economic theory to real world situations and understand how economic theory contributes to analysis and evaluation of public policy.

Track: BA

Start Date: 09/02/2008

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Capstone course paper Assessment Method Category: Capstone	70% of students should perform in the adequate or better level in the overall content and econometric methods categories	spring semester	Yes

Outcome: Develop students' communication skills

Students should be able to effectively communicate economic knowledge and analysis both in writing and orally.

Track: BA

Start Date: 01/05/2009

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
written course rubric based on papers written in the baccalaureate writing intensive courses ECON 4840 and 3050 Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure	80% of students should perform at the adequate or better level in the content, organization and language skills categories	fall semester	Yes
class presentation rubric based on classroom presentations given in upper-division courses Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure	80% of students should perform at the adequate or better level in terms of content, organization and delivery	spring semester	Yes

Related Courses

- * ECON 3090 - Women and the Economy
- * ECON 3190 - Environmental Econ
- * ECON 3890 - Latin American Economics
- * ECON 4840 - Comp Econ Systems

Outcome: Develop critical thinking abilities

Students are able to use what they have learned to engage in critical thinking in addressing economic issues

Track: BA

Start Date: 01/05/2009

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
capstone course paper in ECON 4090 Econometrics Assessment Method Category: Capstone	60% of students should perform in the adequate or better categories in the critical thinking criteria portion of the capstone course evaluation	spring semester	Yes

Outcome: Provide high quality program offerings for our majors and minors and other student groups

The class offerings are viewed as appropriate and of high quality by the outside reviewer

Track: MA
End Date: 02/09/2009
Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Report by an outside reviewer in conjunction with Academic Program Planning Assessment Method Category: External Boards, Advisory or Focus Groups	Outside reviewer judges our course offering to be appropriate and of high quality	January 2009	Yes
Evaluation of our MA and PhD class offerings by our outside reviewer for Academic Program Planning in Spring 2009 Assessment Method Category: External Boards, Advisory or Focus Groups	Outside reviewer should judge our course offerings to be appropriate and of high quality	In conjunction with academic program planning	Yes

Outcome: Offer students a diverse and appropriate menu of courses

The Department offers an array of courses that meets students needs and interests and reflects current developments in the field of economics

Track: BA
End Date: 02/10/2009
Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Assessment by the outside reviewer as part of Academic Program Planning undertaken i by the economics department January 2009 Assessment Method Category: External Boards, Advisory or Focus Groups	Outside reviewer judges our course offerings to be appropriate given student interests and reflect recent developments in economics	January 2009	Yes

Outcome: Mastery of core economic theory, empirical methods and sub-discipline specialization

Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of core concepts in micro and macroeconomic theory and mathematical economics

Track: Ph.D.
Start Date: 09/02/2008
End Date: 01/05/2009
Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
PhD qualifying exams in micro and macroeconomic theory Assessment Method Category: Exam-Comprehensive	70% of students should pass these exams given two attempts	Exams are given in September and again in January each year	Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Students must demonstrate mastery of at least two sub-fields in economics Assessment Method Category: Exam-Comprehensive	70% of students should pass these exams given two attempts	exams are given in september and january of each year	Yes
Ph.D. qualifying exam in econometrics Assessment Method Category: Exam-Comprehensive	70% of students will pass this exam given two attempts	exams given in September and January each year	Yes

Outcome: Attract high quality applicants to our graduate programs

applicants should demonstrate considerable academic merit

Track: Ph.D.

Start Date: 09/02/2008

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Assessment Evaluation: applicants average 411 on the verbal and 676 on the quantitative portions of the GRE

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
examination of gre scores of entering students Assessment Method Category: Exam-Standardized	students should score at least 400 on the verbal and 540 on the quantitative portions of the exam	september each year	Yes

Outcome: Preparing students for employment

Both MA and PhD students should succeed in finding suitable employment in academic and non-academic settings

Track: Ph.D.

End Date: 08/14/2008

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
annual employment report for Ph.D. candidates Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	all Ph.D. graduates should have found a suitable job upon graduation	yearly	Yes

Outcome: Provide high quality instruction in graduate courses

Faculty should provide a classroom experience that enhances student learning

Track: MA

Start Date: 09/02/2008

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
teaching evaluation index for graduate courses Assessment Method Category: Survey-Student	graduate MA courses should average at least 4.0 on a 5 point scale		Yes

Outcome: Preparing students to be able to conduct research

Students should demonstrate the ability to organize and complete a major research project

Track: Ph.D.

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
examination of doctoral dissertation Assessment Method Category: Departmental Committee Review	Completed doctoral dissertations should give evidence of potential for publication in refereed journals		Yes
Graduate student seminars should demonstrate a capacity to organize and complete a major research project Assessment Method Category: Departmental Committee Review	All students should demonstrate the ability to organize a major research project	annual review	Yes

Outcome: Achieving a diverse graduate student population

Women and members of minority groups should be well represented in our graduate student population

Track: Ph.D.

Start Date: 09/02/2008

End Date: 04/24/2009

Outcome Status: Complete

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
annual report on race and gender Assessment Method Category: Departmental Committee Review	women and minority groups should be well represented in our graduate student population	annual	Yes