

# Annual Academic Program Assessment

## Reporting On Continuous Improvement Efforts

**Primary Program**
**Economics - BA**
**Associated Programs:**

Economics - MA - Combined Degree

Econometrics and Quantitative Economics - MS - Combined Degree

Economics - MS - Combined Degree

**Program Editor Roles:**

Program Coordinator - Joanne Song Mclaughlin, jsmlaug@buffalo.edu

**Mission Statement:**
**Learning Outcomes:**
**Learning Outcome 1:**

Demonstrate strong working knowledge of the basic principles and terminology of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics.

**Learning Outcome 2:**

Demonstrate the ability to read, evaluate, and interpret general economic information.

**Assessment Method**

Successful completion of empirical projects in ECO 480 Econometrics for those students who pass the course. These empirical projects require students to download, manage, analyze, and interpret real-world data that contain economic information.

**Success Criteria**

A minimum score of 70% or better on this assignment would represent the fulfillment of this learning outcome. We expect at least 70% of students to meet this standard.

**Assessment Findings**

79% of students met or exceeded the standard in AY 2019-2020.

**Actions Based On Findings**

Our standard of 70% of student meeting or exceeding was met. The Undergraduate Studies Committee will meet with the faculty to discuss how these courses are linked to the program learning outcomes and review the results. The Committee will also discuss how we can improve this outcome further.

**UB ILO Mapping**

- 1: **Critical Reasoning** — Demonstrate domain expertise, including critical reasoning and analysis.
- 2: **Literacy Skills** — Apply effective communication, information, and digital literacy skills.
- 3: **Ethics And Responsibility** — Demonstrate ethical and professional responsibility and act according to the norms of the chosen discipline.

**Course Mapping**

1: **ECO 480LEC** - Mastered and Assessed

**Learning Outcome 3:**

Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply basic statistics.

**Assessment Method**

Successful completion of empirical projects in ECO 480 Econometrics for those students who pass the course. These empirical projects require students to download, manage, analyze, and interpret real-world data that contain economic information.

**Success Criteria**

A minimum score of 70% or better on this assignment would represent the fulfillment of this learning outcome. We expect at least 70% of students to meet this standard.

<b>Assessment Findings</b>	79% of students met or exceeded the standard in AY 2019-2020.
<b>Actions Based On Findings</b>	Our expectation of 70% of students meeting or exceeding the above standard was met. The Undergraduate Studies Committee will meet with the faculty to discuss how these courses are linked to the program learning outcomes and review the results. The Committee will also discuss how we can improve this outcome further.
<b>UB ILO Mapping</b>	<p>1: <b>Critical Reasoning</b> — Demonstrate domain expertise, including critical reasoning and analysis.</p> <p>2: <b>Literacy Skills</b> — Apply effective communication, information, and digital literacy skills.</p> <p>3: <b>Ethics And Responsibility</b> — Demonstrate ethical and professional responsibility and act according to the norms of the chosen discipline.</p>
<b>Course Mapping</b>	1: <b>ECO 480LEC</b> - Mastered and Assessed
<b>Learning Outcome 4:</b>	
Demonstrate sound knowledge of the subject areas covered by the elective courses.	
<b>Assessment Method</b>	Successful completion of research projects or presentations in upper-level electives that require students to make presentations or write (individual or group) research projects for those who passed the course.
<b>Success Criteria</b>	A minimum score of 70% or better on these assignments would represent the fulfillment of this learning outcome. We expect at least 70% of students to meet this standard.
<b>Assessment Findings</b>	Among many upper-level electives courses that were offered during AY 2019-2020, we identified that ECO 412 Environment Economics, ECO 416 Economic Development, ECO 468 Economics of Sports, and ECO 455 Information and Internet Economics require students to make research presentations, or individual or group research projects. 100% of students received at least 7 out of 10 on research presentation in ECO 412; 87% earned at least 7 on group research projects in ECO 416; 94% of students earned at least 7 on group research projects in ECO 455; 85% of students earned at least a score of 7 on the group research paper project in ECO 468.
<b>Actions Based On Findings</b>	Our expectation of 70% of students meeting or exceeding the above standard was met. The Undergraduate Studies Committee will meet with the faculty to discuss how these courses are linked to the program learning outcomes and review the results. The Committee will also discuss how we can improve this outcome further and encourage more faculty to require students to submit research presentations or projects.
<b>UB ILO Mapping</b>	<p>1: <b>Critical Reasoning</b> — Demonstrate domain expertise, including critical reasoning and analysis.</p> <p>2: <b>Literacy Skills</b> — Apply effective communication, information, and digital literacy skills.</p> <p>3: <b>Ethics And Responsibility</b> — Demonstrate ethical and professional responsibility and act according to the norms of the chosen discipline.</p> <p>4: <b>Collaborate Positively</b> — Collaborate positively with others to achieve a common purpose.</p> <p>5: <b>Personal Skills</b> — Assess, articulate, and acknowledge personal skills, abilities and growth areas.</p>
<b>Course Mapping</b>	<p>1: <b>ECO 412LEC</b> - Reinforced</p> <p>2: <b>ECO 416LEC</b> - Reinforced</p> <p>3: <b>ECO 468LEC</b> - Reinforced</p> <p>4: <b>ECO 455SEM</b> - Reinforced</p>
<b>Learning Outcome 5:</b>	

Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively both in written and oral forms.

<b>Assessment Method</b>	Successful completion of research projects or presentations in upper-level electives that require students to make presentations or write (individual or group) research projects for those who passed the course.
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<b>Success Criteria</b>	A minimum score of 70% or better on these assignments would represent the fulfillment of this learning outcome. We expect at least 70% of students to meet this standard.
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<b>Assessment Findings</b>	Among many upper-level electives courses that were offered during AY 2019-2020, we identified that ECO 412 Environment Economics, ECO 416 Economic Development, ECO 468 Economics of Sports, and ECO 455 Information and Internet Economics require students to make research presentations, or individual or group research projects. 100% of students received at least 7 out of 10 on research presentation in ECO 412; 87% earned at least 7 on group research projects in ECO 416; 94% of students earned at least 7 on group research projects in ECO 455; 85% of students earned at least a score of 7 on the group research paper project in ECO 468.
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<b>Actions Based On Findings</b>	Our expectation of 70% of students meeting or exceeding the above standard was met. The Undergraduate Studies Committee will meet with the faculty to discuss how these courses are linked to the program learning outcomes and review the results. The Committee will also discuss how we can improve this outcome further and encourage more faculty to require students to submit research presentations or projects.
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<b>Course Mapping</b>	<p>1: <b>ECO 412LEC</b> - Mastered and Assessed</p> <p>2: <b>ECO 416LEC</b> - Mastered and Assessed</p> <p>3: <b>ECO 455SEM</b> - Mastered and Assessed</p> <p>4: <b>ECO 468LEC</b> - Mastered and Assessed</p>
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#### Learning Outcome 6:

none

#### Planning:

##### Program Planning Based on Assessment Findings:

##### What aspects of program delivery will be maintained, strengthened, or changed?

We plan to focus more on SLO #1 and #4, while we maintain SLO #2, 3, and 5. In regard to SLO #1, we plan to seek an alternative way to assess this learning outcome that is not based on course grades. And we also plan to expand the electives that are used to assess SLO #4.

##### Budget Planning Based on Assessment Findings:

##### What budget resources are required to implement your program planning?

It will help tremendously if we can reduce the class size of some of our existing large required courses.

##### Assessment Plan:

##### Which learning outcome(s) will be the focus of the upcoming assessment cycle?

We plan to focus more on SLO #1 and 4.

Documents:

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