

Course Outcomes Guide

Directions: Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

Course/Program Title: ECO 201 Macroeconomics Principles

Date: Fall 2012

Course/Program Team: Lori Spessard & Stacey McGee

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Explain how the concepts of scarcity, incentives, opportunity cost, and marginal analysis affect economic decision making.
2. Analyze the role of supply, demand, and prices in a market economy and the necessary conditions for a market economy to function well.
3. Describe and critique the role of government in a market economy.
4. Understand the three major macroeconomic goals (economic growth, high employment, low inflation) in order to describe why they are important and how they are measured.
5. Explain the importance of long run economic growth, and the factors that contribute to growth.
6. Describe the theories, implementation, and limits of fiscal and monetary policies, and how they affect economic activity.
7. Explain the concept of comparative advantage, the gains from international trade, the role of exchange rates, and the effects of globalization.
8. Use economic terminology, concepts and theories to analyze “real world” scenarios and current events.

General Education Outcomes:

The student will be able to:

9. Critically analyze and evaluate issues derived from the Social Sciences utilizing appropriate methodologies.
10. Demonstrate how culture, society, and diversity shape the role of the individual within society and human relations across cultures.

Assessment (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

Students are assessed using a combination of quizzes, exams, writing, and discussion assignments.

Outcome	Quiz or Exam Questions	Writing Assignments	Discussion
1	X		
2	X		
3	X	X	X

4	X	X	X
5	X		
6	X		
7	X	X	X
8	X	X	X
9		X	X
10		X	X

Validation (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

Quiz and exam questions are selected from a large test bank provided by the publisher. It is assumed that the publisher validates these questions and tests them for reliability. We select each question to ensure the quizzes and exams are assessing what we want to assess.

The writing and discussions assignments are constructed with the course and general outcomes in mind. Each is graded with a detailed rubric to ensure a match between the assignments and the outcomes.

Results (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

We found that students were not using MyEconLab to its full advantage. Many were able to get high scores on the homework (which was repeatable) but did not achieve similar scores on the midterm and final.

In the online sections, discussions were not eliciting high quality responses. Too few posts reflected adequate learning of the material.

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

To remedy the problem with exams described above, we are requiring students to complete the Study Plan in MyEconLab. Students must also complete two quizzes before taking the midterm and final exams.

To address the issue with online discussions, each discussion board is now part of larger assignment that involves writing a paper. By doing the research for the paper first, students will hopefully be able to post higher quality responses.

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)

No additional funds are required at this time.