

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 202 Microeconomics Principles **Date:** Fall 2014 (FA13 and SP14)

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. Define and apply the concept of elasticity, and describe the effect of a given elasticity on economic outcomes.
5. Analyze the impact of market structure and competitive behavior on output and resource markets.
6. Use economic terminology, concepts and theories to analyze “real world” scenarios and current events.

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	Midterm Exam Questions	Final Exam Questions
1	X	
2	X	
3	X	
4	X	
5		X
6		X

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

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 exams are measuring what we want to assess.

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

Outcome	Measurement	Desired Result	Actual Results				
			FA13	SP14	F2F	Online	Hybrid
ECO 202 Outcome 1: Explain how the concepts of scarcity, incentives, opportunity cost, and marginal analysis affect economic decision making.	Midterm Q7: Production Possibilities Frontiers & Opportunity Cost	80% of students will answer correctly	72%	74%	65%	75%	91%
ECO 202 Outcome 2: Analyze the role of supply, demand, and prices in a market economy, and the necessary conditions for a market economy to function well.	Quiz 1 Q12: Supply and Demand Analysis		78%	77%	77%	76%	100%
	Midterm Q10: The Market System		76%	85%	65%	86%	100%
ECO 202 Outcome 3: Describe and critique the role of government in a market economy.	Midterm Q20: Government Intervention in the Market		80%	82%	67%	88%	100%
ECO 201 Outcome 4: Define and apply the concept of elasticity, and describe the effect of a given elasticity on economic outcomes.	Midterm Q31: The Relationship Between Price Elasticity of Demand and Total Revenue		68%	72%	59%	75%	82%
ECO 202 Outcome 5: Analyze the impact of market structure and competitive behavior on output and resource markets.	Final Q7: Perfect Competition and Efficiency		69%	55%	64%	63%	63%
ECO 201 Outcome 6: Student will utilize economic terminology, concepts, and theories to analyze "real world" scenarios and events.	Final Q40: Income Distribution		78%	79%	80%	75%	100%

General observations about the results:

- In general, the online students perform better than the F2F sections when assessed using objective exam questions in MyLab. We believe this is because the online students more fully utilize this tool since it is partly acting as a replacement for in-class graph and problem practice. We also believe that many of the F2F students expect to acquire sufficient practice by merely attending class, and that additional practice outside of class is not needed.
- Course material contains significant emphasis on graphs and math. Outcomes that involve math skills are weak (see Outcomes 4 and 5 in particular).

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

We implemented quizzes that would act as graded practice before taking the midterm and final exams; we will continue to use quizzes in the coming year. In addition, all sections had required, graded homework in MyLab. In other words, plenty of graded practice is provided, but it does not always improve results. We have also noticed that students continue to try to memorize questions and problems rather than truly understand them. We will continue to offer as much practice as possible in class, online, and through tutoring in the Learning Support Center.

As part of our ongoing search for inexpensive, quality materials, we will be using an open source textbook this coming year. Online and hybrid students will also be required to use an online homework site, similar to MyLab.

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

No additional funds are required at this time.