

Form E-1-A for Boston College Undergraduate Programs

Program: Social Science Core - Economics

1) Have formal learning outcomes been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the Program expect students to have acquired from taking Social Science core in Economics?)

(a) Students are expected to develop

Specifically, students will be able to:

5. Explain the fundamental concepts of economics:
 scarcity, opportunity cost, equity, efficiency, positive statements, normative statements, production possibilities frontier, circular flow, economic resources/factors of production, markets, product markets, factor markets, equilibrium, surplus, shortage, elasticities, industrial organization, absolute and comparative advantage, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP, Deflator Consumer Price Index (CPI), inflation rates, unemployment rates, labor force participation rates, nominal versus real variables, market failures.
6. Apply economic theory in the real world.
7. Analyze the impact of fiscal and monetary policies on markets and the economy.
8. Recognize the impact of other government policies on markets and the economy.

- 3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether students have achieved the stated outcomes for the program? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes are being achieved more or less well?)

(a) Instructors teaching the economics social science core courses (ECON 1131 and ECON 1132) each semester will use a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being highest) to evaluate how well the students in their classes achieved the outcomes listed above.

(b) Reports will be maintained in the Economics Department files of annual faculty meetings held to assess strengths and weaknesses of students taking the economics social science core courses (ECON 1131 and ECON 1132) and whether the curriculum needs modification.

(c) In addition, the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics will form and chair a faculty committee every third year to review the curriculum of the economics social science core courses (ECON 1131 and ECON 1132) and make recommendations to be discussed at the annual faculty meeting. A written report will be maintained in department files.

- 4) Who interprets the evidence? What is the process? (Who in the Program or Department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

The Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics (DUS) will have primary responsibility for designing and implementing modifications to the economics core courses. The DUS reports to and is advised by the Economics Department faculty at an annual meeting to discuss undergraduate issues, curriculum and program modifications.

