

**Economics Department Student Learning Assessment Plan
University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez
2003-2008**

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Table of Contents

	Page
Economics Department Vision and Mission.....	3
Correlation of Economics Department learning outcomes and Institutional outcomes.....	4
Correlation of the Economics Department learning outcomes with the objectives for each outcome.....	5
Assessment of Learning Outcomes.....	8
Timeline for the assessment activities.....	9

Economics Department Student Learning Assessment Plan University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez

The Economics Department Assessment Plan has been developed based on the Institutional and Departmental vision and mission.

The Economics Department Vision

A department of Economics renowned for the rigorous academic preparation of its graduates, the provision of indispensable services to other academic departments, and the excellence of its academic research and professional faculty.

Mission

Prepare economists with critical thinking, an aptitude for creative research, a profound social commitment, and the ability to contribute to socioeconomic development.

Economics Department learning outcomes

The Economics Department graduating student ...

1. Possess mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the areas of:
 - Microeconomic theory
 - Macroeconomic theory
 - Economic development
 - Econometrics
 - Economy of Puerto Rico
 - Applied economics
 - International economics
2. Is able to conduct empirical research, and propose solutions to economic problems.
3. Possess skills in critical thought, mathematical reasoning and quantitative analysis.
4. Can distinguish between value judgments and economic reasoning.
5. Possess literacy in the utilization of tools of Information technology in economic analysis.
6. Can integrate ethical principles in personal and professional performance.
7. Possess interpersonal skills in group work and the capacity to express knowledge in both oral and written forms.
8. Recognize the importance of continuous learning.

Correlation of Economics Department learning outcomes and Institutional outcomes

Economics Department learning outcomes	Institutional learning outcomes
The Economics Department graduating student ...	By the time of their graduation, UPRM students will be able to:
1..Possess mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microeconomic theory • Macroeconomic theory • Economic development • Econometrics • Economy of Puerto Rico • Applied economics • International economics 	Identify and solve problems, think critically, and synthesizes knowledge appropriate to their discipline.
2. Is able to conduct empirical research, and propose solutions to economic problems.	Identify and solve problems, think critically, and synthesizes knowledge appropriate to their discipline.
3. Possess skills in critical thought, mathematical reasoning and quantitative analysis.	Apply mathematical reasoning skills, scientific inquiry methods, and tools of information technology.
4. Can distinguish between value judgments and economic reasoning.	Apply ethical standards.
5. Possess literacy in the utilization of tools of Information technology in economic analysis.	Apply mathematical reasoning skills, scientific inquiry methods, and tools of information technology.
6. Can integrate ethical principles in personal and professional performance.	Apply ethical standards.
7. Possess interpersonal skills in group work and the capacity to express knowledge in both oral and written forms.	Communicate effectively.
8. Recognize the importance of continuous learning.	Recognize the need to engage in life-long learning.

Correlation of the Economics Department learning outcomes with the objectives for each outcome

Economics Department learning outcomes	Objectives
The Economics Department graduating student ...	The Economics Department graduating student will be able to
<p>1..Possess mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microeconomic theory • Macroeconomic theory • Economic development • Econometrics • Economy of Puerto Rico • Applied economics • International economics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do demand-supply analysis. (Econ.3021, Econ.3091) 2. Analyzed the effects of fiscal and monetary policy (Econ.3022, Econ.3092, Econ.4025, Econ.4065) 3. Mention the most important characteristics of Economic development theories.(Econ.3085. Econ.3086, Econ.4015, Econ.4405) 4. Design statistical models to test the research hypothesis (Econ. 4017, Econ.4395). 5. Analyzed the economical and historical background of the Puerto Rico's economy (Econ.3085, Econ.3086) 6. Use economics analysis to solve economic problems (Econ. 3091, Econ.4027, Econ.4028, Econ,4037, Econ.4056, Econ.4196, Econ.4225) 7. Recognize the importance of international markets in our country (Econ.3022, Econ. 3092, Econ.4085)
2. Is able to conduct empirical research, and propose solutions to economic problems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design statistical models to test the research hypothesis (Econ. 4017, Econ.4395). 2. Identify explanatory variables and probe their statistical significance. (Econ. 4017, Econ.4395). 3. Prepare Research Reports from research projects. (Econ. 4017, Econ4395)
3. Possess skills in critical thought, mathematical reasoning and quantitative analysis.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the scientific method to analyzed economic problems(Econ.3021) 2. Solve problems in competitive markets (Econ. 3021, Econ.3091) 3. Use macroeconomic models to reach a general equilibrium (Econ.3022, Econ 3092)

Economics Department learning outcomes	Objectives
The Economics Department graduating student ...	The Economics Department graduating student will be able to
4. Can distinguish between value judgments and economic reasoning.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish between the use of values (normative) approach and the objective (positive) approach. (Econ. 3021) 2. Compare the economist way of thinking with other disciplines (Econ.3021) 3. Use the cost-benefits analysis to decide economic issues. (Econ.3021)
5. Possess literacy in the utilization of tools of Information technology in economic analysis.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select economic data from different sources, using the internet (Econ.3021, Econ.3022, Econ.3085, Econ.4017, Econ.4085, Econ.4395, Econ.4405) 2. Organize data in order to do empirical research (Econ.4017, Econ.4395) 3. Use statistical programs to empirical research (Econ.4017, Econ.4395)
6. Can integrate ethical principles in personal and professional performance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mention the ethical problems faced by researchers in the economic field. (Econ.3021, Econ.4395) 2. Contrast the different ways other disciplines resolve their ethical problems with the way economists approach it. (Econ.3021) 3. Identify the role ethics have in consumer decisions (Econ.3021, Econ.4056).
7. Possess interpersonal skills in group work and the capacity to express knowledge in both oral and written forms.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work projects together as a team (Econ.4017) 2. Present oral and written reports on the results of their projects (Econ.4017, Econ,4395) 3. Contrast and compare the different economic theories (Econ.3091, Econ.3092) 4.

Economics Department learning outcomes	Objectives
8. Recognize the importance of continuous learning.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find economic literature to remain updated in economic knowledge. (Econ.3021, Econ.3022) 2. Identify the most prominent researchers in the economic field. (Econ.4395)

Assessment of Learning Outcomes 2004-08

Although we wish to assess each and every one of our learning outcomes, we will begin this process by assessing whether the Economics Department graduating student possess mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in Microeconomic theory, Macroeconomic theory, and Economy of Puerto Rico.

Economics Department learning outcomes	Assessment method
The Economics Department graduating student ...	
<p>1..Possess mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microeconomic theory • Macroeconomic theory • Economic development • Econometrics • Economy of Puerto Rico • Applied economics • International economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to test whether our undergraduate students are in <i>the process of achieving</i> conceptual and quantitative command in Microeconomic theory, Macroeconomic theory, and Economy of Puerto Rico, we will offer assessment tests in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Microeconomic Theory ➤ Macroeconomic Theory ➤ Economy of Puerto Rico • The assessment tests will be given to undergrad students taking courses in Principles of Microeconomics (Econ.3021), Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ.3022) and Economic and Social Development of Puerto Rico (Econ.3085). • The tests will include questions and problems, which students should be able to answer at the end of the semester. No pre-test is given, since very few students have taken courses in economics, while in high school. The assessment tests results will be analyzed and discussed in Faculty meetings. • During the academic year 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Microeconomic Theory assessment test will be offered to undergraduate students taking the Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Econ.3091). This will allow us to follow up on their progress. • During the academic year 2007-08, the Macroeconomic Theory assessment test will be offered to undergraduate students taking courses in Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (Econ.3092). This will allow us to follow up on their progress

Timeline for the assessment activities 2004-08

Assessment activities	Period of assessment	Assessment outcomes Reports
<p>Assessment tests are given at the end of semester, to test whether students are in the process of acquiring mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the area of Microeconomic theory. The tests are given repeatedly to compare and analyze results.</p>	<p>1st semester 2003-2004 – 1st semester 2007-2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Student Assessment Report will be prepared for every closing of the loop. • The results will be discussed in Faculty meetings in the Economics Department and presented in Assessment Coordinators meetings.
<p>Assessment tests are given at the end of semester, to test whether students are in the process of acquiring mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the area of Macroeconomic theory. The tests are given repeatedly to compare and analyze results.</p>	<p>1st semester 2004-2005 – 2nd semester 2007-2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Student Assessment Report will be prepared for every closing of the loop. • The results will be discussed in Faculty meetings in the Economics Department and presented in Assessment Coordinators meetings
<p>Assessment tests are given at the end of semester, to test whether students are in the process of acquiring mastery of conceptual and quantitative skills in the area of Economy of Puerto Rico. The tests are given repeatedly to compare and analyze results.</p>	<p>1st semester 2004-2005 – 1st semester 2008-2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Student Assessment Report will be prepared for every closing of the loop. • The results will be discussed in Faculty meetings in the Economics Department and presented in Assessment Coordinators meetings

Assessment of Learning Outcomes for 2008-09

The assessment process continues testing whether our students *possess literacy in the utilization of tools of Information technology in economic analysis*. In the fall semester of the academic year 2007-08, the Economics Department approved the following Student Learning Assessment Plan for the following academic year 2008-09:

Economics Department learning outcomes	Assessment method
The Economics Department graduating student ...	
<i>possess literacy in the utilization of tools of Information technology in economic analysis</i>	<p>In order to test whether our undergraduate students possess literacy in the utilization of tools of Information technology in economic analysis we will prepare a questionnaire to gather the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Whether the use of technology is promoted as a complement to topics covered in class. ❖ Which technology instruments was use in economics courses. ❖ Whether the use of technology required in class helped or facilitated a better understanding of the course topics. <p>The questionnaire will be given to all undergraduate students taking courses in economics during the 2nd semester of the academic year 2008-09.</p> <p>The information gathered will allow us to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Whether the Department should promote the use of technological instruments in the teaching of economics ❖ Which technological instruments were most useful in facilitating the understanding of economics concepts.

Timeline for the assessment activities 2008-09

Assessment activities	Period of assessment	Assessment outcomes Reports
A questionnaire will be prepared in order to gather information on the use of information technology in economics courses.	1 st semester of 2008-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The questionnaire will be discussed and approved in Faculty meetings in the Economics Department.
A questionnaire will be given to all undergraduate students taking courses in economics	2 nd semester 2008-2009 I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Student Assessment Report will be prepared for the closing of the loop. • The results will be discussed in Faculty meetings in the Economics Department and presented in Assessment Coordinators meetings.