



**UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
MAYAGÜEZ CAMPUS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**



**ASSESSMENT PLAN
ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Academic Years**

**Approved by:
Faculty of the Department of Economics at
Thursday, February 8, 2024
Ordinary Meeting**

**Prepared by:
Assessment Committee
of the Department of Economics
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I. Introduction

This document is prepared with the purpose of establishing achievable and measurable objectives and goals in the activity of the academic assessment, as well as the administrative assessment in the Department of Economics of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez Campus (UPRM).

Since its founding, UPRM and its four academic colleges have been committed to excellence in the teaching-learning process, in research activities in all branches of the natural and social sciences, in the promotion of the arts in all their expressions, and in the provision of excellent services to both the academic community and the broader community in which our institution operates. Improvement in each of these dimensions is an important goal in itself and fundamental to the full development of the public university.

In this context, the Department of Economics presents a realistic and concise assessment plan, through which it proposes to measure the extent to which academic and administrative objectives are achieved. The plan is part of the Vision and Mission of both the Department, the College of Arts and Sciences and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (UPRM), as outlined in the following sections.

II. Purpose of the Assessment

As in any assessment plan in our institution, the academic dimension undoubtedly plays the most important role in our work. Enabling students to acquire fundamental skills in economic analysis—at both the micro and macroeconomic levels—is a crucial goal for the Department of Economics. Although in our case there are no accreditation requirements for the profession

As an economist, our department certainly collaborates decisively in the achievement of the objectives of accreditation and periodic evaluation of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) in general and of the UPRM in particular. It is important to note that this collaboration has been maintained despite the high need to hire teaching and administrative staff on a regular basis that our departmental unit faces.

In this sense, the academic training of excellence and the acquisition of knowledge in the discipline of economic sciences, including students who specialize in studies in Economics through the approval of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics or the Minor Concentration in Economics and those student population that are offered service courses, they are our essential goal. In the case of the Minor Concentration in Economics, it was created by virtue of Certification No. 15-93 by the Academic Senate of the UPRM on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. The aforementioned Certification indicates the specific objectives of the Concentration, as well as its Assessment Plan

On the other hand, the administrative function, in a context of increasing scarcity of fiscal resources and therefore of personnel, materials, equipment and other assets, has become a management in which formidable challenges are faced. Maintaining the levels of administrative excellence that have characterized the UPRM for many decades, taking into account the deep economic and fiscal crisis that the country has been going through since the second quarter of 2006 is not – has not been – an easy task. The second purpose of the plan is to measure, through a rigorous administrative assessment exercise, the achievements in this regard.

III. Vision of the UPRM and the College of Arts and Sciences

The vision of the UPRM is to:

"To be a leading institution in higher education and research, transforming society through the pursuit of knowledge, in an environment of ethics, justice and peace."¹

The vision of the College of Arts and Sciences is to:

"Be a leading college, known for its high standards, its contribution to social and economic development of the local and international community by seeking and implementing new knowledge."²

IV. Vision of the Department of Economics

In the Strategic Plan 2012-2022 of the Department of Economics, it states that its

Vision is:

"To become an advanced department in higher education and research, distinguished internationally for its excellence in the formation of its graduates, dynamically contributing to social and economic development, transforming society through the pursuit of knowledge, in an atmosphere of ethics, justice and peace."

V. Mission of the UPRM and the College of Arts and Sciences

The mission of the UPRM is to:

"To provide excellent service to Puerto Rico and to the world.

¹ Source: UPRM, Undergraduate Catalog 2023-2024, page 2. Available in <https://www.uprm.edu/asuntosacademicos/catalogos-academicos/>

² UPRM, Undergraduate Catalog 2023-2024, page 116. Available in <https://www.uprm.edu/asuntosacademicos/catalogos-academicos/> and <https://www.uprm.edu/arci/mision-y-vision/>

- Forming educated, cultured, critically thinking citizens professionally prepared in the fields of agricultural sciences, engineering, arts, sciences, and business administration so that they can contribute to the educational, cultural, social, technological and economic development.
- Performing creative work, research and service to meets society's needs and to make available the results of these activities.

We provide our students with the skills and sensitivity needed to effectively resolve problems and to exemplify the values and attitudes that should prevail in a democratic society that treasures and respects diversity."³

The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to:

Provide an excellent service to Puerto Rico and the World:

- The formation of educated citizens, cultured, able to think critically and professionally trained in the arts and sciences so that they can contribute to educational, cultural, social, technological and economic development.
- Creating creative work, and conducting research and service that meets the needs of society and disseminating the results of these activities so that they are accessible to all.

Provide our students with the necessary sensitivity to effectively solve the problems we face and to exemplify the values and attitudes that should prevail in a democratic society which values and respects diversity.⁴

³ UPRM, Undergraduate Catalog 2023-2024, page 2. Available in <https://www.uprm.edu/asuntosacademicos/catalogos-academicos/>

⁴ UPRM, Undergraduate Catalog 2023-2024, page 116. Available in

VI. Mission of the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics' 2012-2022 Strategic Plan states that its Mission is to:

"Provide an excellence service in education:

- Collaborating in the formation of educated, cultured citizens, able to think critically and professionally prepared in the economic discipline so that they can contribute to educational, cultural, social, technological and economic development.
- Doing creative work, research and service, that meets the needs of the society and reporting the results of these activities so that they are accessible to everyone.
- Providing our students with the skills and sensitivity necessary needed to effectively solve the problems we face and to be an example of the civic formation in education that should prevail in a democratic system that values and respects diversity."

VII. Students Profile of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics

After successful completion of program requirements all major students are expected to:

1. Know theoretical and technical research tools.
2. Identify and analyze socioeconomic problems in a critical and logical manner, perform empirical research and propose solutions to these problems.
3. Identify value judgments and apply economic reasoning based on objective and rational analysis.

4. Possess technical and creative skills in business and administrative aspects which can solve problems in these areas.
5. Be able to integrate ethical and social values in their professional and personal performance.
6. Possess interpersonal and teamwork skills and the ability to exhibit knowledge in verbal and writing in English and Spanish.
7. Possess skills in mathematical reasoning and quantitative analysis.
8. Possess skills in the use of statistical software and knowledge in informatics.

VIII. Student Learning Outcomes of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics

The expected student learning outcomes in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program are listed below:

1. Providing our students with the theoretical and practical tools that enable them to understand and analyze the economic, social, and international environment so that they can make rational decisions and propose solutions to socio-economic problems.
2. Enable them to develop their skills of communication and work as a team, with social conscience and ethics, in such a way that they reach a comprehensive education as human beings.
3. Provide the tools to integrate information technology into the economic analysis.
4. Train them to perform professionally in their working areas.
5. Encourage them to continue graduate studies in economics or related areas.
6. Encourage continuous learning, as part of their human, intellectual, and professional development.

IX. Relationship between the Expected Student Learning Outcomes of the UPRM, the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Bachelor of Arts Program in Economics.

A. Relationship between the Expected Student Learning Outcomes of the UPRM and the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences

UPRM Student Learning Outcomes	College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Expected Learning Outcomes
1. Become an intentional learner.	Engage in lifelong and multi/interdisciplinary learning.
2. Demonstrates creative and critical thinking.	Think critically.
3. Communicates effectively.	Communicate effectively orally and in writing, in both Spanish and English, particularly in their major area.
4. Identify, study, and propose solutions to problems; transform knowledge into action.	Develop knowledge and skills related to their field of study and apply them to the identification and solution of problems.
5. Apply mathematical, scientific, and technological skills.	Apply mathematical reasoning, the scientific method, research designs, and information technologies.
6. Apply interpretive and integrative skills.	Apply mathematical reasoning, the scientific method, research designs, and information technologies.
7. Relate global contexts and issues of importance to Puerto Rico.	Be knowledgeable about Puerto Rican heritage and culture.
8. Show moral autonomy; develop a sense of wellbeing, understand ethical conduct.	Recognize the ethical implications of different actions and integrate ethical standards or codes into responsible decision-making and implementation.
9. Practice civic virtues.	Appreciate the essential values of a democratic society and the role of the individual in such a society.
10. Value diversity.	Demonstrate respect for human diversity in all its dimensions.
	Demonstrate respect for nature and the environment, particularly in Puerto Rico.
	Develop an appreciation for the humanities, the arts, and the sciences.
	Engage in Teamwork.

B. Relationship between the Expected Student Learning Outcomes of the UPRM and the Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

UPRM Expected Student Learning Outcomes	Expected Student Learning Outcomes of the Bachelor of Arts Program in Economics
1. Become an intentional learner.	5. Motivate them to pursue graduate studies in economics or related areas. 6. Motivate continuous learning, as part of their human, intellectual and professional development.
2. Demonstrates creative and critical thinking.	1. To provide our students with the theoretical and practical tools that allow them to understand and analyze the economic, social and international environment, so that they can make rational decisions and propose solutions to socioeconomic problems.
3. Communicates effectively.	2. To enable them to develop their communication and teamwork skills, with social and ethical awareness, so that they achieve a comprehensive formation as human beings.
4. Identify, study, and propose solutions to problems; transform knowledge into action.	1. To provide our students with the theoretical and practical tools that allow them to understand and analyze the economic, social and international environment, so that they can make rational decisions and propose solutions to socioeconomic problems.
5. Apply mathematical, scientific, and technological skills.	3. Provide them with the tools to integrate information technology into economic analysis.
6. Apply interpretive and integrative skills.	1. To provide our students with the theoretical and practical tools that allow them to understand and analyze the economic, social and international environment, so that they can make rational decisions and propose solutions to socioeconomic problems.
7. Relate global contexts and issues of importance to Puerto Rico.	
8. Show moral autonomy; develop a sense of wellbeing, understand ethical conduct.	2. To enable them to develop their communication and teamwork skills, with social and ethical awareness, so that they achieve a comprehensive formation as human beings.
9. Practice civic virtues.	4. Train them to perform professionally in their areas of work.
10. Value diversity.	5. Motivate them to pursue graduate studies in economics or related areas. 6. Motivate continuous learning, as part of their human, intellectual and professional development.

X. Student Profile of the Minor Concentration in Economics

The Minor in Economics allows students to:

1. Have a solid foundation to pursue studies at the graduate level in economics or business administration.
2. Increase their social and business production capacity.
3. Increase their attractiveness in the labour market.

XI. Specific Objectives of the Minor Concentration in Economics

The specific objectives of the minor concentration are defined taking into account the characteristics and evolution of the socio-economic activity carried out in a context of rapid transformation and demands of quality, competitiveness and sustainability and of increasing internationalization. By the end of the minor concentration, students should be able to:

1. Recognize the two economic dimensions: the microeconomic and the macroeconomic. Both dimensions are related to the decision-making of the agents involved in economic activities: the consumers of goods and services (the demand side), companies in the productive sector (the supply side), and the interrelation and interactions between supply and demand and the structure of markets.
2. Apply the method of economic analysis to address the essential aspects that affect the economic reality.
3. Understand economic principles and identify their different dimensions, so as to gain the ability to develop, plan and evaluate economic policies that allow the efficient use of resources, in accordance with the principles of economic sustainability.

4. Analyze the viability of projects that propose the development of competitive advantages.

XII. Assessment Plan Schedule: 2023-2026

The Assessment Plan of the Department of Economics has been articulated to measure, in the first place, the extent to which it is possible to transmit the basic and advanced knowledge of economic sciences to a student body that is characterized by being heterogeneous in its composition, as well as in its academic and professional objectives. This is the main objective of the academic dimension of the Plan and is detailed in the section below.

A. Academic Assessment of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

The following table details the academic assessment tools of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics, as well as the academic periods in which the tasks will be carried out and the teaching staff in charge.

Expected Learning Outcomes of the Program	Course	Personnel Responsible for the Appraisal	Appraisal Instrument	Threshold	Assessment Period:	
					First Semester	Second Semester
To provide our students with the theoretical and practical tools that enable them to understand and analyze the economic, social and international environment, so that they can make rational decisions and propose solutions to socioeconomic problems.	ECON 3092: Macroeconomic Theory	Director Department	Exit Questionnaire	70% of students will answer that they trust their competence to analyze and propose solutions to socioeconomic problems.	N/A	May
To enable them to develop their communication and teamwork	ECON 4392 Research Methods in	Director Department	Exit Questionnaire	70% of students will respond that they	N/A	May

skills, with social and ethical awareness, so that they achieve a comprehensive formation as human beings.	Economics II			are confident in their competence in communication and teamwork.		
Provide them with the tools to integrate information technology into economic analysis.	ECON 4017 Econometrics	Director Department	Exit Questionnaire	70% of students will respond that they are confident in their knowledge of technical skills	N/A	May
Train them to perform professionally in their areas of work.	ECON 4392 Research Methods in Economics II	Director Department	Exit Questionnaire	70% of students will respond that they are confident in their abilities to overcome challenges in business or work environments.	N/A	May
Motivate them to pursue graduate studies in economics or related areas.	ECON 4392 Research Methods in Economics II	Director Department	Exit Questionnaire	At least 50% of students will identify graduate studies in economics or related field as an option to pursue after their baccalaureate studies.	N/A	May
Motivate continuous learning, as part of their human, intellectual and professional	ECON 4392 Research Methods in Economics II	Director Department	Exit Questionnaire	At least 50% of students will consider that their studies in	N/A	May

development.				economics have led them to ask themselves questions that they would like to answer with further studies		
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B. Academic Assessment of the Minor Concentration in Economics. ⁵

The Assessment Plan for the Minor Concentration in Economics shall contain at least the following information:

1. Number of students enrolled in the minor concentration.
2. Student evaluations and their analysis.
3. Courses passed and grades earned.
4. Number of students completing the minor concentration per academic year.
5. Professional Achievements of Students Graduating from the Minor Concentration.
6. Number of students who pursued studies in tourism and/or economics at the graduate level.
7. Statistics on areas of emphasis between electives taken by students in the minor concentration.

The Assessment Plan will be presented by the Coordinator to the Faculty of the Department of Economics every two years, where the academic planning will also be proposed and the revisions of the minor concentration will be considered, if meritorious.

⁵ As stated in Certification No. 15-93 of the Academic Senate of the UPRM.

Operational objective	Instrument	How to Measure Success	Person(s) responsible for its implementation	Appraisal Itinerary
Generate Stable Demand for Minor Concentration	Registration of students who have been admitted to the minor concentration	10 students admitted to the Minor Concentration during the first three years of implementation, with a tendency to increase in subsequent years	Director, Department Associate Director, Academic Advisor, Minor Major Coordinator	Annual
High retention rate	Proportion of Students Completing the Minor Concentration in Three Years	At least 65% of students who enter the Minor Major will have completed it by the time they graduate from high school	Director, Associate Director, Department Academic Advisor, Minor Major Coordinator	Annual
Impact on graduates	Satisfaction Questionnaire for Students Completing the Minor Concentration	There will be an increasing trend in graduates who would recommend another student to pursue the Minor Concentration	Academic Advisor, Minor Concentration Coordinator	Annual
	Registration of graduates who continue graduate studies in related areas	At least 50% of graduates go on to graduate studies in the discipline	Academic Advisor, Minor Concentration Coordinator	Biennial
	Effectiveness Questionnaire	At least 65% of graduates consider that the minor concentration has been effective as an instrument for professional improvement in their discipline.	Academic Advisor, Minor Concentration Coordinator	Biennial

C. Administrative Assessment of the Department of Economics

In the administrative dimension, the Assessment Plan pursues two basic objectives: first, to measure, through the use of an Administrative Assessment questionnaire, the effectiveness of the management of the Department of Economics in the performance of its managerial functions. It should be noted that the task of academic/administrative management has fallen for several years to a single person – the Head of Department – who,

in addition to directing the unit and administering personnel affairs, is in charge of all the tasks related to academic guidance, the preparation of academic programs for the faculty, etc. and the coordination of the enrolment process from start to finish in each semester of the academic year and during the summer term. In this sense, the administrative assessment questionnaire aims to collect all the aforementioned aspects and measure the performance of the official who executes them. The following table also shows other assessment tools in the administrative phase.

Administrative Assessment Tools	Period and Responsible Person(s)
Administrative Assessment Questionnaire.	During the second semester, the Assessment Committee administers it and the faculty responds to the questionnaire.
Departmental Participation. in Meetings	At each Departmental Meeting, faculty have the opportunity to ask questions about administrative aspects
Departmental Participation. in Activities	After each Departmental Activity (conferences, seminars, and others) administrative performance is evaluated.
As of the 2015-2016 Academic Year, the questionnaire prepared by the Evaluation Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was adopted.	

XIII. Validity of the Assessment Plan

This plan will be developed over the next two academic years, starting in the First Semester 2023-2024 and culminating in the Second Semester 2024-2025. Therefore, this plan should be reviewed in the First Semester of the 2025-2026 Academic Year.