Department Name: Economics and Employment Relations

Date Submitted and Academic Year: Fall 2013 for AY2013 - 2014

Department Mission Statement:
The Department of Economics of the School of Arts and Sciences at SUNY Potsdam is composed of programs in economics and business economics. The faculty members work collaboratively to engage students in their understanding of economic issues embedded in a local, state, national, and international environment. Graduates with majors in economics and business economics, will have sound knowledge to operate within the national and global community. We expect them to be leaders in their chosen professions and will make sound consumer decisions for their family and community.

The department strives to encourage and maintain a learning environment that offers the best transfer of knowledge to our students. The department continuously engages in program development in order to meet students’ needs and expectations in a rapidly changing global economy. Teaching excellence and individualized mentoring are the top objectives of the department. In order to achieve its goals we believe that our department must offer students the services of a knowledgeable, skilled, trained faculty that:

- Is up to date with new developments in teaching and research on the best way to share and transfer knowledge to students, and engages and challenges students in their learning.
- Is involved in academic development and curricular improvements to create and maintain programs that are responsive to the needs of society, future employers of our students and other constituents.
- Encourages formal and informal feedback from students and colleagues and sustains a community of learners.
- Is active within and outside the college community, and applies skills, knowledge, and abilities gained from service to the classroom learning environment.

We will promote these academic goals for our students:

- An understanding of the economic models and trends that drive the national and world economies.
- An understanding of the economic systems that directly affect individual for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations.
- An understanding of the financial practices that affect businesses every day and over periods of time.
- An understanding of the human factor in the workplace and the policies and practices that affect individuals.
- The ability to integrate technology in the implementation of practice.
Department Assessment Coordinator or Faculty Member Completing this Form:
Michael Nuwer

Update on prior years’ “Application of Assessment Results:
Intended Student Learning Outcome #1
Retrieve information on particular topics and issues in economics.

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission
“Sound knowledge to operate within the national and global community”

Links with other programs/departments

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)
Produce a two page (500-word) summary of the current state of the macro economy. In this project the student must:
  a. identify the variables to be reported;
  b. track down the data sources;
  c. report the results along with sources
Data sources should come from professionally recognized archives of macroeconomic data.

Data Source/Results & Analysis
Survey of faculty

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Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement

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Economics and Business Economics programs

**Intended Student Learning Outcome #2**
Explain key economic concepts and describe how these concepts can be used.

**Connection to Univ/Dept Mission**
“Sound knowledge to operate within the national and global community”

**Links with other programs/departments**

**Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)**
Choose a concept from economics and produce a two page (500-word) written statement on one of the following:
- a. how that concept explains the dimensions of a current economic policy issue;
- b. how that concept is explained in the writings of an eminent economist;
- c. a disagreement among economist regarding that concept

**Data Source/Results & Analysis**
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**Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement**

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #3
Interpret existing knowledge

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission
“Sound knowledge to operate within the national and global community”

Links with other programs/departments

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)
Produce a five page analysis. Explain and evaluate an economic concept and or principle that is used in published daily newspapers, weekly news magazines, or nontechnical analyses written by economists for general purpose publications. Students may not use web sites. The newspaper must be available in a printed format.

Data Source/Results & Analysis
Survey of faculty

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Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #4
Interpret and manipulate economic data
Explain how to understand and interpret numerical data.

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission
“Sound knowledge to operate within the national and global community”

Links with other programs/departments

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)
The project will consist of an exploration of a selected data sets such as those found in the Statistical Abstract of the United States or the Economic Report of the President. Use the data set to construct a table that contains three data series or variables. (You must make your own table from the data you have found.)
The finished project must contain
(1) an introduction, where the theory being addressed with the data is discussed;
(2) a presentation of the data, where the patterns and trends for each of three variables are described;
(3) a discussion of the relationship among three different variables in your table;
(4) a conclusion which ties the data to an economic concept or theory.

Data Source/Results & Analysis
Survey of faculty

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Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement

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### Summary of Action Plans for 2008-09

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