

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan- Economics and Employment Relations

Department Name: Economics and Employment Relations Programs

Date Submitted and Academic Year: Fall 2009 for AY2009-2010

Department Mission Statement:

The Department of Economics and Employment Relations of the School of Arts and Sciences at SUNY Potsdam is a multidisciplinary department that is composed of programs in economics and employment relations. The faculty members work collaboratively to engage students in their understanding of economic and employment issues embedded in a local, state, national, and international environment. Graduates with majors in economics, business economics, and employment relations, and minors in economics and employment relations, 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.

Faculty Member Completing this Form: Dr. Michael Nuwer

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Update on prior years' "Application of Assessment Results:

The Economics and Business Economics Majors have been modified with the following:

A one credit hour seminar has been added to both majors for generating assessment data.

An introductory statistics class is now required for all majors

Intermediate writing (comp201) is now required for all majors

These changes will take effect for the Fall 2010 catalog term.

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Economics and Business Economics programs

Intended Student Learning Outcome #1

Students will demonstrate ability to access existing knowledge:

Retrieve information on particular topics and issues in economics. Locate published research in economics and related fields. Track down economic data and data sources.
Find information about the generation, construction, and meaning of economic 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)

Produce a two page 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 Source/Results & Analysis

Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #2

Students will demonstrate ability to display command of existing knowledge

Explain key economic concepts and describe how these concepts can be used. Write a précis of a published journal article. Summarize in a two-minute monologue or in a 500-word written statement what is known about the current condition of the economy and its outlook. Summarize the principal ideas of an eminent economist. Elaborate a recent controversy in the economics literature. State the dimensions of a current economic policy issue.

Connection to Univ/Dept Mission

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Links with other programs/departments

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)

Produce a 500-word written statement on two of the following:

- a. the dimensions of a current economic policy issue;
- b. what is known about the current condition of the economy and its outlook;
- c. the principal ideas of an eminent economist;
- d. a recent controversy in the economics literature

Data Source/Results & Analysis

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #3

Students will demonstrate ability to interpret existing knowledge

Explain and evaluate what economic concepts and principles are used in economic analyses published in daily newspapers and weekly news magazines. Describe how these concepts aid in understanding these analyses. Do the same for nontechnical analyses written by economists for general purpose publications (e.g., *Challenge*, *Brookings Review*, *The Public Interest*).

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Links with other programs/departments

Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)

Produce a five page analysis. Explain and evaluate what economic concepts and principles are used in economic analyses published in daily newspapers, weekly news magazines, or nontechnical analyses written by economists for general purpose publications (e.g., *Challenge*, *Brookings Review*, *The Public Interest*).

Data Source/Results & Analysis

Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement

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Intended Student Learning Outcome #4

Students will demonstrate ability to interpret and manipulate economic data

Explain how to understand and interpret numerical data found in published tables such as those in the annual *Economic Report of the President*. Be able to identify patterns and trends in published data such as those found in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Construct tables from already available data to illustrate an economic issue. Describe the relationship among three different variables (e.g., unemployment, prices, and GDP). Explain how to perform and interpret a regression analysis that uses economic data.

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Measurable Criteria and Assessment Method(s)

The project will consist of an exploration of a selected data sets, where the student will extract data and prepare tables. The finished project must contain

- (1) an introduction, where the question being addressed is motivated;
- (2) a presentation of the data, where the patterns and trends are described;
- (3) a discussion of the relationship among three different variables in the data set;
- (4) a conclusion which ties the whole thing together.

Data Source/Results & Analysis

Application of Results/Action Plan for Improvement

(Additional Intended Student Learning Outcomes can be added if required)

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<i>Summary of Action Plans for 2009-10</i>
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