

Economics

Master Assessment Plan

Department: Economics

Assessment Coordinator: Shawn Knabb

Departmental Mission:

The mission of the department is to provide students with an understanding of economic concepts and the functioning of the economy, and to equip them with the ability to apply economic analysis in problem solving. The department strives to provide a major program which gives students rigorous training in both economic theory and applications. The department plays an integral role in offering courses that are a component of Western's General University Requirements and that are part of other undergraduate and graduate programs in the college and in the University. The department views the conduct of research in economics, and applied research in particular, to be an integral part of its instructional mission. In addition, the department strives to serve both the profession and the community and to help raise the level of economic awareness among the public at large.

Department Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, Economics majors will be able to:

1. Apply economic analysis to evaluate economic problems and specific policy proposals.
2. Understand how to interpret statistical results and use empirical evidence to evaluate an economic argument.
3. In specific fields of economics, develop deeper critical and quantitative thinking skills and apply problem-solving skills to complex problems.
4. Communicate economic ideas effectively in written, spoken, and graphical form.
5. Understand the importance of scarcity, opportunity cost, incentives, and tradeoffs.
6. Understand the factors that determine the level of income, employment, output and prices in an economic system.

GUR Student Learning Outcomes:

3. Use quantitative and scientific reasoning to frame and solve problems.
4. Identify and analyze complex problems.
11. Understand and assess the impacts of interactions among the individual, society, and the environment.