

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

UAF Core: Economics100 Political Economics

School of Management

AY 2013-14

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1. Assessment information collected

A. Technical Knowledge

1. Macroeconomics: 156 students were assessed in the four Fall 2013 courses and information was collected from matching term and definition questions.
2. Microeconomics: 156 students were assessed in the four Fall 2014 courses and information was collected from a graphical problem solving questions from Econ 100 exams.
3. Macro and Microeconomics: Fall Econ 100 courses were surveyed with 210 surveys returned.

B. Communication Oral: Oral presentations were recorded from two classes.

Note Data is collected every semester on technical knowledge and oral communication, assessment every other alternating year. This year technical knowledge was assessed

2. Conclusions drawn from the collected information summarized above

Technical Knowledge assessed.

A1 and A2. Technical Knowledge (direct measures):

The students scored an average of 89% on the multiple choice questions testing the students grasp of macroeconomic issues. The students scored an average of 93% on the graphical analysis of microeconomic issues. The minimal threshold is 70% for the multiple choice questions and 75% for the graphical analysis.

A3. The students filled out a survey that solicited responses to whether students felt that certain desired outcomes were achieved. There are five choices on the questions as follows:

- a. strongly agree
- b. agree
- c. neither agree or disagree
- d. disagree
- e. strongly disagree

The minimum threshold, per question, is that 70% of the students choose agree or disagree. The questions (with the percent of students meeting minimum thresholds) are as follows:

- 1) The course has made a considerable degree of difference in my ability to understand the nature of market systems. (92%)
- 2) The course has made a considerable degree of differences in my ability to analyze current economic issues in America. (92%)
- 3) The course has made a considerable degree of difference in my ability to understand the complexity of the interaction between governments and markets. (92%)
- 4) The course has made a considerable degree of difference in my ability to understand current news stories and analysis. (86%)
- 5) This course has helped me to become an informed voter. (67%)
- 6) I have a better understanding of the U.S. economic system. (92%)
- 7) I now have a better understanding of my own economic values. (80%)

3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above

Closing the Loop was performed for Technical Knowledge.

The only question where the minimal threshold was not met was on the survey where just 67% of the students agreed that "This course has helped me to become an informed voter". This is consistent with past results. While the course does address many of the economic issues that influence the way people vote, (immigration, minimum wage, legalization of drugs, etc.) it does not address social issues such as abortion, gay marriage, etc. The committee feels that the question is too broad and will change the wording to "This course has helped me to understand how economic theory influences political decision making". We believe that this newly reworded question better gets at the feedback that we are looking for from this question.

4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting

All the Econ 100 changes were addressed by the Econ 100 Core Assurance of Learning Committee which consists of:

Sherri Wall, Chair
Mark Herrmann
Anita Hughes (AOL Support)