

Economics M.A.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Economics M.A. Program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in Economics that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge. The Economics M.A. Program supports the University's mission of providing advanced professional education for the Hampton Roads area and the Commonwealth.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The Economics M.A. Program supports the University goal of (a) quality graduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, (c) discovery of new knowledge, and (d) community service. (See pages 304 of the Old Dominion University Catalog or pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan.) The Economics M.A. Program also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs). See the Old Dominion University Strategic Plan.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students will communicate effectively in writing.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: 100 percent of students will earn scores of satisfactory or higher on the sub-score of Writing on their Final Research Paper or Thesis, and 85 percent will earn scores of good or excellent.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: The final research paper for the completion of students' degree program requires that each student take Econ 698. Of the six students who graduated from Summer 2000 through Spring 2001, all received a grade of better than a B+ on the sub-score of writing. In fact everyone except one received an A- or better. Data are provided in Attachment I

Intended Outcome 2

Students will use research methods and designs to effectively test hypotheses and draw inferences.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: 100 percent of students will earn scores of satisfactory or higher on the sub-scores of test of hypothesis and drawing inferences on their Final Research Paper or Thesis, and 85 percent will earn scores of good or excellent.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: The final research paper for the completion of students' degree program requires that each student take Econ 698. Of the six students who graduated from Summer 2000 through Spring 2001, all received a grade of better than a B+. In fact everyone except one received an A- or better. Every student in his/her paper used econometric techniques to test hypotheses and draw inferences. Data are provided in Attachment I

Intended Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of major economic theories and empirical findings in the field of Economics.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: All students will earn scores of 80 or higher on their Comprehensive Examinations in Advanced Microeconomic Theory, Advanced Microeconomic Theory, Econometrics I, and a field of their choice.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: Of the six students who graduated from Summer 2000 through Spring 2001, all except two received a grade of better than a B in each of the comprehensive examinations. Data are provided in Attachment I

Intended Outcome 4

Students will use computers effectively to present and analyze information.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: 100 percent of students will earn scores of satisfactory or higher in Econometrics I and their project which would involve estimation of Econometric models, and 85 percent will earn scores of good or excellent.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4: Of the six students who graduated from Summer 2000 through Spring 2001, all except one received a grade of better than a B in their comprehensive examination in Econometrics I. Data are provided in Attachment I