Central Washington University
Assessment of Student Learning
Department and Program Report

Please enter the appropriate information concerning your student learning assessment activities for this year.

Academic Year of Report: 2009-2010 College: College of Business
Department: Economics Program: 

1. **What student learning outcomes were assessed this year, and why?**

   The following are the learner outcomes for Econ 401, 402, and 406. Economics majors are encouraged to take Econ 401 and 402 during their senior year and required to complete Econ 406 during the last quarter of their course of study. By the end of the respective course students should be able to

   **Econ 401**

   1. Trace the logical steps, as specified by economic theory, which begin with an individual consumer’s tastes and preferences and end with the specification of a market demand curve for a given commodity.
   2. Trace the logical steps, as specified by economic theory, which begin with an individual firm’s production function and end with the specification of a short-run market supply curve for a given commodity.

   **Econ 402**

   1. Develop an understanding of the different schools of thought in macroeconomics; the different sets of economic problems they address and their significant differences in policy prescription.
   2. Identify the behaviors of important macro variables using graphs. Distinguish between the mathematical formulation of endogenous and exogenous growth models. Understand the mathematical assumptions that differentiate the short and the long-run models.
   3. Demonstrate in writing ability to synthesize different perspectives, use information from a variety of sources and evaluate policy.

   **Econ 406**

   1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and statistical concepts that are used in economic applications.
   2. Students will identify careers that match their interests and skills, and develop resources needed to succeed in the job market.
   3. Students will evaluate the economics program at Central Washington University.
2. How were they assessed?

1. Graded homework problems, quizzes and exams will be used to assess student comprehension of these economic and statistical concepts.
2. Students will prepare written reports for Econ 402 and 406 which will be graded by the instructor. These written reports will assess critical thinking and written communication.
3. Students will prepare an oral presentation for Econ 401 which will be graded by the instructor. This presentation will assess oral communication skills.
4. Students will take the ETS exam in economics and statistics to demonstrate competence in these subjects at the end of Econ 406.
5. Students will complete an exit survey that identifies the economics courses that they found to be the most useful, the instructor(s) that they found to be most helpful, and the usefulness of the program regarding their future careers.

3. What was learned?

In the assessment course, students completed 3 midterm exams and the final ETS field exam in economics. The results on the midterm exam showed proficiency in microeconomics and macroeconomics. On the ETS exam in economics the student scores ranged from the 95th percentile to the 5th percentile with the majority of students scoring above the 60th percentile. We hope that the scores will improve as our entrance requirements to the major were raised this year. Our department is in the initial stages of assessing rubrics concerning critical thinking (Econ 402), oral presentation (Econ 401), and written presentation in (Econ 406).

4. What will the department or program do as a result of that information?

The Department of Economics uses the performance on the ETS field exam and assessment rubrics as a signal of how its students are performing. Our economics program is flexible and adjusts its course content in accordance with its students’ performance relative to that of other students.

5. What did the department or program do in response to last year’s assessment information?

We further developed and integrated the assessment rubrics into our curriculum.

6. Questions or suggestions concerning Assessment of Student Learning at Central Washington University: