Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods

Program (SSB) - ECON - Economics (PhD) - 065

Program Mission Statement: The Doctoral program prepares individuals for academic careers and for research and administrative positions in business and government. The program offers an advanced understanding of economic theory and provides students with empirical skills that are critical to their success.

Outcome: Microeconomic Theory

Microeconomic Theory Knowledge and Competency
1. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in the theory of consumer behavior.
2. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in the theory of producer behavior.
3. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in the theory of the market.
4. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in the theory of general (multimarket) equilibrium.

Microeconomic Theory Knowledge and Competency is introduced and reinforced in Econ 5223 (Mathematical Economics), Econ 6013 (Microeconomic Theory I), and Econ 6023 (Microeconomic Theory II). It is assessed with the Microeconomics Theory Preliminary Exam upon completion of the relevant courses.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - The Microeconomic Theory Prelim Committee administers a comprehensive microeconomic theory exam in the students' first year. The committee evaluates students based on the following rubric for assessing microeconomic theory, knowledge, and comprehension and assigns points as follows: Fail= 1 point; Marginal Pass = 2 points; Pass = 3 points; Pass Good= 4 points. (Active)
* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score greater than or equal to 2.   **Timeline for Assessment:** The preliminary exam is administered at the end of the first year of study for each cohort.   **Related Documents:**   Rubric_Microeconomic Theory.docx

Outcome: Macroeconomic Theory

Macroeconomic Theory Knowledge and Competency
1. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in basic Keynesian theory.
2. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in dynamic optimization.
3. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in growth theory.
4. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in consumption-saving.

Macroeconomic Theory Knowledge and Competency is introduced and reinforced in Econ 5033 (Macroeconomic Analysis), Econ 6033 (Macroeconomic Theory I), and Econ 6043 (Macroeconomic Theory II). It is assessed with the Macroeconomics Theory Preliminary Exam upon completion of the relevant courses.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Knowledge

Program (SSB) - ECON - Economics (PhD) - 065

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - The Macroeconomic Theory Prelim Committee administers a comprehensive macroeconomic theory exam in the students' first year. The committee evaluates students based on the following decision making rubric for macroeconomic theory and assigns points as follows: Fail= 1 point; Marginal Pass = 2 points; Pass = 3 points; Pass Good= 4 points. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score of greater than or equal to 2.
Timeline for Assessment: The preliminary exam is administered at the end of the first year of study for each cohort.
Related Documents:
Rubric_Macroeconomic Theory.pdf

Outcome: Econometrics

Econometrics Knowledge and Competency
1. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an in-depth competency in the theory and application of the core areas of econometrics.
 2. Graduates should be able to analyze data. They should have the ability to construct, estimate, and interpret economic models.

Econometrics Knowledge and Competency is introduced, reinforced, and assessed in Econ 6213 (Econometrics I) and Econ 6243 (Econometrics 2).
Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Analysis of Written Artifacts - The most recent instructor in Econ 6213 (Econometrics I) and Econ 6243 (Econometrics II) conducts embedded in-class assessments of the students' understanding of these core areas for all PhD students who took these classes in the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 semesters. The instructor evaluates students based on the following rubric for assessing econometric theory, knowledge, and comprehension and assigns points as follows: Fail= 1 point; Marginal Pass = 2 points; Pass = 3 points; Pass Good= 4 points. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score greater than or equal to 2.
Timeline for Assessment: The evaluation occurs at the end of the second year of study for each cohort.
Related Documents:
Rubric_Econometric Theory.docx

Outcome: Major Field

Major Field Knowledge and Competency
1. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an advanced understanding in one chosen sub-discipline of specialization in economics.
 2. Graduates should demonstrate a "frontier" level of competency and familiarity with the literature in the student's major field of study.

Major Field Knowledge and Competency is introduced and reinforced in a student's chosen area of study from our field courses, which include Econ 6613 (International Finance) and Econ 6633 (International Trade), Econ 6623 Development I) and Econ 6643 (Development II), and Econ 6903 (Regional Economics) and Econ 6913 (Urban Economics). It is assessed for both written and oral communication skills with the completion of a third year paper which is presented and evaluated at the beginning of the fall semester of a student's fourth year.
Outcome Status: Active

Program (SSB) - ECON - Economics (PhD) - 065

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Analysis of Written Artifacts - Students will complete a third year paper and be evaluated for their ability to clearly and effectively communicate their knowledge and competency within their major field through an oral defense of the third year paper. A third year paper advisor (faculty member) is asked to rate the written and oral communications skills of each doctoral student using the following rubrics. The amount of data collected on each student depends on the number of students in each program engaging in these activities, and varies from year to year. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score greater than or equal to 6 on the written assessment.
Timeline for Assessment: The completion of a third year paper is evaluated at the beginning of the fourth year of study.
Related Documents:
Rubric_Written.doc

Oral Presentation - Students will complete a third year paper and be evaluated for their ability to clearly and effectively communicate their knowledge and competency within their major field through an oral defense of the third year paper. A third year paper advisor (faculty member) is asked to rate the written and oral communications skills of each doctoral student using the following rubrics. The amount of data collected on each student depends on the number of students in each program engaging in these activities, and varies from year to year. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score greater than or equal to 6 on the oral communication assessment.
Timeline for Assessment: The completion of a third year paper and the oral presentation is evaluated at the beginning of the fourth year of study.
Related Documents:
Rubric_Oral.doc

Outcome: Professional Communication

Professional Communication
1. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an ability to clearly and effectively communicate the results of their research in written form through the dissertation process.
2. Graduates of this program should demonstrate an ability to clearly and effectively communicate the results of their research in oral form through the dissertation process.
3. Graduates should display the skills required to teach college-level classes in the area of economics.

Professional Communication is introduced and reinforced in throughout the PhD curriculum. In addition, all first year PhD students are required to participate in a departmental instructional workshop designed to prepare them for the classroom and we provide opportunities for advanced students to present preliminary research to faculty and peers.
Professional Communication is assessed in Econ 6000 (Research) during the dissertation proposal and defense stage of our program.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

Analysis of Written Artifacts - Doctoral committee members are asked to rate the written communications skills of each doctoral student presenting a dissertation proposal or defense using the written communication skills rubric. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score greater than or equal to 6 on the written assessment.

Timeline for Assessment: At the proposal and defense stage of a dissertation.
Related Documents:
Rubric_Written.doc

Oral Presentation - Doctoral committee members are asked to rate the oral communications skills of each doctoral student presenting a dissertation proposal or defense according to the oral communication skills rubric. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: 50% of the students should be able to achieve a score greater than or equal to 6.
Timeline for Assessment: At the proposal and defense stage of a dissertation.
Related Documents:
Rubric_Oral.doc