

Assessment Plan

Economics

Community College of Denver

Lynn Wilson, Chair
Emma Cummings, Lead Faculty

June 2018

Mission of the Economics Department

Economics is the study of choice among nations, governments, individuals, and businesses. The economics DWD prepares students to master economics foundations by learning scarcity, unemployment, price stability, economic growth, balance of trade, and fiscal and monetary policy in preparation for a four year degree. The law of supply and demand, market structures, and the theory of pricing are also deeply explored in preparation for advanced learning.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

There are six program student learning outcomes in the Economics DWD, each of which provide students with the basic skills necessary to transfer to their four year institution.

PSLO1. Explain scarcity in terms of choice.

PSLO 2. Identify real price versus nominal price.

PSLO 3. Calculate real gross domestic product (GDP).

PSLO 4. Compare and contrast how the legislative and the Federal Reserve work in tangent, and separately, in the creation of fiscal and monetary policy.

PSLO 5. Describe the interaction of how the law of supply and demand influences prices.

PSLO 6. Distinguish the characteristics and the pricing of the five market structures: perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly, monopolistic competition, monopsony.

Curriculum Map

Currently, the DWD in Economics has only two economics courses: ECO 201 which is macroeconomics, and ECO 202 which is microeconomics. Within our five year plan we do intend to increase these offerings, but our curriculum map is currently shown below.

	ECO 201	ECO 202
PSLO 1	I, U	U, M
PSLO 2	I, M	I, U
PSLO 3	I, M	
PSLO 4	I, M	
PSLO 5	I, U	U, M
PSLO 6	I	U, M

I – introduce
U – utilize
M – master

Each PSLO will be assessed in the course within each it should be mastered as shown above.

Assessment Measures and Results

Each PSLO will be assessed using a rubric. Every year, the economics department will work with both faculty and instructors to identify a common quiz or assignment all students will be given. A randomized sampling of those artifacts will be collected by each section of the relevant class. Those will be redacted, and blind coded to show modality and section. Then, the rubric will be normed by a sub-set of faculty and instructors who will then assess the artifacts. A sample rubric is below.

PSLO1. Explain scarcity in terms of choice.

	Does not Meet	Meets	Exemplary
Define economics	Student cannot define economics.	Student can identify that economics is the study of choice.	Student can additionally identify that without scarcity, we could have everything and would never need to choose.
Define scarcity	Student can only identify one or no elements.	Student can describe that scarcity is a condition where we have limited resources and unlimited wants.	Student can additionally identify that shortages are not scarcity.
How scarcity affects economics	Student cannot articulate that there is a relationship between economics and scarcity.	Student recognizes that there is a relationship.	Students understands and can explain that without scarcity there would be no choice, and therefore no economics.

Once those assessment results are determined, they will be used to improve the identified courses within the program. Two years on, those improvements will themselves be assessed to determine if the changes in the courses have led to an improvement in the student program learning outcomes.

FY 19

- ECO 201 will be assessed

FY 20

- ECO 202 will be assessed

FY 21

- ECO 201 improvements will be assessed

FY 22

- ECO 202 improvements will be assessed

FY 23

- New course developed in ECO will be assessed

Continuous Improvement

This assessment plan will be reviewed annually by the chair, faculty, and instructors to ensure that it accurately reflects the practices of the department. The review will also include an update on last year's assessment results, and a plan to make improvements to the relevant course based on these results. This will be the responsibility of the chair of the department.