

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Undergraduate Program Assessment: Phase 1

Learning Objectives

At the time of graduation, candidates must have completed one or more activities for each of the five learning objectives. Examples of appropriate activities are listed for each learning objective.

I. *Gaining access to existing knowledge*

- I-1 Locate published research in economics and related fields;
- I-2 Locate information on particular topics and issues in economics;
- I-3 Search out economic data as well as information about the meaning of the data and how they are derived.

II. *Displaying command of existing knowledge*

- II-1 Summarize (in a 2-minute monologue or a 300-word written statement) what is known about the current condition of the economy;
- II-2 Summarize the ideas of an eminent living economist;
- II-3 Summarize a current controversy in the economics literature;
- II-4 State succinctly the dimensions of a current economic policy issue;
- II-5 Explain key economic concepts and describe how they can be used.

III. *Displaying ability to draw out existing knowledge*

- III-1 Write a précis of a published journal article;
- III-2 Read and interpret a theoretical analysis, including simple mathematical derivations, reported in an economics journal article;
- III-3 Read and interpret a quantitative analysis, including regression results, reported in an economics journal article;
- III-4 Show what economic concepts and principles are used in economic analyses published in articles from daily newspapers and weekly news magazines.

IV. *Utilizing existing knowledge to explore issues*

- IV-1 Prepare a written analysis (of say, 5 pages) of a current economic problem;
- IV-2 Prepare a decision memorandum (of say, 2 pages) for a superior that recommends some action on an economic decision faced by the organization.

V. *Creating new knowledge*

- V-1 Identify and formulate a question or series of questions about some economic issue that will facilitate investigation of the issue;
- V-2 Prepare a 5-page proposal for a research project;
- V-3 Complete a research study whose results are contained in a polished 20-page paper.