

Revised Assessment Plan for MA Economics

1. List the student learning outcomes (SLOs) that were assessed during the academic year, including those for which data were gathered as well as those for which developmental work was done, such as the creation or piloting of assessment measures.

The following five SLO's were adopted by the faculty Spring 2008.

A1. Students explain and manipulate complex economic models.

B1. Students use appropriate econometrics to explore economic issues and test hypotheses.

B2. Students undertake original economic analysis.

C1. Students effectively present their work to peers and working economists.

C2. Students effectively present their work and economics ideas to interdisciplinary and general audiences, including undergraduate students.

1. For each learning outcome, describe a) the measures used (at least one-half of the measures used are to be direct measures, and at least one direct measure must be used for each SLO), b) the sample of students from whom data were collected, c) the timetable for the collection, and d) the setting in which the measures were administered. (Find examples of direct measures at <http://www.unm.edu/~assess/ToolsAndTemplates.html>).

The following table provides an updated timetable for collection, based on modification adopted by the faculty Fall 2008. Modifications were made to either more adequately reflect the procedures in the department or to incorporate procedural changes that have been adopted by the department.

For each assessment measure, the first line of information includes the SLO category and the assessment instrument. The second line provides information concerning the timetable.

| SLO | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|--|
| A1 | MA Field Exam [DIRECT] |
| | Administered two times per year (August 2008, January 2009), depending on individual student progress. Four-hour field specific exam administered in the Departmental Conference Room. |
| A1 | MA Thesis. [DIRECT] |
| | Varies with individual student progress. Dissertation or thesis defense scheduled in the |

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| Departmental Conference Room individually for each student when their committee has determined the research adequate to fulfill the requirements for the degree in question. | |
| B1, B2 | MA Thesis. [DIRECT] |
| Varies with individual student progress. Thesis defense scheduled in the Departmental Conference Room individually for each student when their committee has determined the research adequate to fulfill the requirements. | |
| B2, C2 | MA Thesis [DIRECT] |
| Thesis defense scheduled in the Departmental Conference Room individually for each student when their committee has determined the research adequate to fulfill the requirements. | |
| C1 | Thesis Defense [DIRECT] |
| Varies with individual student progress. Thesis defense scheduled individually for each student when their committee has determined the research adequate to fulfill the requirements for the degree in question. | |
| C2 | Job placements [INDIRECT] |
| Ongoing | |

2. Describe the results of the assessment. (What do they tell you about student learning? What did you learn about strengths and weaknesses of your program?) If specific results are not available, describe the progress that has been made on the initiatives included in the approved assessment plan.

Objectives for 2008-2009 are to finalize and adopt implementation procedures for the above assessment tools. The following table provides details. The first line provides the assessment method and type. The second line provides detail on the developed procedure and status.

| Assessment Method | Type |
|---|----------|
| MA Field Exams | Direct |
| Field exams are developed and evaluated by a chair-appointed faculty committee. Exams are administered each January and February. The committee evaluates each student on their knowledge and abilities in their field. August and January results are reported to the faculty and discussed by the faculty. An annual report, summarizing all results will be prepared and provided. | |
| STATUS: Ongoing | |
| MA Thesis Defense | Direct |
| Thesis committees evaluate student work according to professional standards and fills out "Yellow Sheet" evaluation of work. An annual report of all results will be prepared and provided. | |
| STATUS: Ongoing | |
| Job Placement | Indirect |
| Each August and January, the department's Academic Advisor will update a database of job placement information: | |

The Academic Advisor and the Graduate Director will provide an annual report of the results.

STATUS: Under development.