

Assurance of Student Learning Reflection 2024-2025

<i>Gordon Ford College of Business</i>	<i>Economics</i>
<i>MA in Applied Economics 0410</i>	
<i>Chris Biolsi, Graduate Program Director; David Zimmer, Department Chair</i>	
Is this an online program? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Please make sure the Program Learning Outcomes listed match those in CourseLeaf. Indicate verification here ☒ Yes, they match! (If they don't match, explain on this page under Evaluation)

Instructions: For the 2024-25 assessment, we are asking you to reflect on the last three-year cycle rather than collect data. It's important to take time to look over the results from the last assessment cycle and really focus on a data-informed direction going forward. In collaboration with your assessment team and program faculty, review each submitted template from 2021-2024 and consider the following for each Program Learning Outcome, add your narrative to the template, and submit the draft to your **ASL Rep** by **May 15, 2025**.

Program Student Learning Outcome 1

Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate ability to conduct economic research.
Evaluation	This SLO remains relevant and crucial to our discipline.
Measurement Instruments	Students in the MA in Applied Economics (0410) are required to complete an applied project at the end of the program. Under the mentorship of a faculty member, students choose a research topic, find the relevant data to conduct empirical study, create an econometric model, and perform necessary data analysis to answer their research questions. Students are instructed to structure their papers similarly to an economics journal article and include an introduction, literature review, data and methodology section, analysis of empirical results, and a conclusion. Therefore, the project allows the students to demonstrating various levels from remembering and understanding the concepts, to applying their knowledge to study real-world problems, analyzing data and creating policy recommendations based on their findings. Papers are evaluated on the following criteria: 1. Did the student formulate an appropriate research question grounded in economic theory? 2. Does the paper contain an adequate literature review? 3. Does the student clearly state the hypothesis and chose an appropriate econometric model to test the hypothesis? 4. Did the student correctly interpret the findings in the paper? 5. Did the student draw correct conclusions based on the results presented in the paper? 6. Did the student discuss limitations of the study and the general applicability of its results?
Criteria & Targets	At the end of the program, students should be able to perform at the level of Capstone (4) or Milestone (3) according to <i>LEAP Inquiry and Analysis</i> rubric.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results:</u> All of our graduating students meet this target. <u>Conclusions:</u> As a small graduate program, we will not graduate a student who fails to meet the threshold. For those struggling to meet the threshold, we provide one-on-one mentoring to help them achieve the threshold.

<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	We do not believe we need to make changes to the measurement instrument of methods for assessing success. Our methods in this area are similar to practices at our competing institutions.
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Program Student Learning Outcome 2	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate ability to convey their research findings using oral communication
Evaluation	This SLO remains relevant and crucial to our discipline.
Measurement Instruments	Students in the MA in Applied Economics (0410) are required to complete an applied project at the end of the program and present it to the economics faculty. The presentations are organized similarly to a thesis defense: The students deliver a 20-25 presentation of their projects followed by a question/answer session. The presentations are evaluated on the following criteria: 1. Was the information presented effectively? 2. Did the student correctly and effectively use economic concepts to convey his or her ideas? 3. Were the visual aids (slides or handouts) used effectively? Was the presentation well-focused around the central idea of the project?
Criteria & Targets	At the end of the program, students should be able to perform at the level of Capstone (4) or Milestone (3) according to LEAP Oral Communication rubric.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results:</u> All of our graduating students meet this target. <u>Conclusions:</u> As a small graduate program, we will not graduate a student who fails to meet the threshold. For those struggling to meet the threshold, we provide one-on-one mentoring to help them achieve the threshold.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	We do not believe we need to make changes to the measurement instrument of methods for assessing success. Our methods in this area are similar to practices at our competing institutions.

Program Student Learning Outcome 3	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate ability to apply econometric modeling techniques to study real-world questions.
Evaluation	This SLO remains relevant and crucial to our discipline.
Measurement Instruments	One of the core courses in the MA in Applied Economics (0410) is Regression and Econometrics (ECON465G), which is also one of the research methods courses in the program. During the course, students learn a variety of econometric techniques. At the end of the course, students have to complete a project during which they have to identify the appropriate econometric technique to study the assigned problem, perform required calculations and interpret their results. This project served as the instrument for measuring this learning objective. Specifically, the following items were assessed: 1. Was the student able to formulate the research question in terms of the appropriate econometric model? 2. Was the student able to perform necessary calculations to estimate the model? 3. Did the student correctly interpret the estimation results?
Criteria & Targets	At the end of the program, students should be able to perform at the level of Capstone (4) or Milestone (3) according to <i>LEAP Quantitative Literacy</i> rubric.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results:</u> All of our graduating students meet this target. <u>Conclusions:</u> As a small graduate program, we will not graduate a student who fails to meet the threshold. For those struggling to meet the threshold, we provide one-on-one mentoring to help them achieve the threshold.
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Program Student Learning Outcome 4	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate appropriate data skills necessary to conduct economic research.
Evaluation	This SLO remains relevant and crucial to our discipline.
Measurement Instruments	Targeted assignments in ECON 506 – Applied Statistical Methods course. Among the assignment given throughout the course, students were required to complete assignments that measured their competency in choosing and using the appropriate data skills necessary to perform subsequent data analysis. Skills addressed included importing data into statistical software, data management skills (e.g. merging, subsetting datasets) etc.
Criteria & Targets	Upon completion of the program, students should perform at the Intermediate or Advanced level.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results:</u> All of our graduating students meet this target. <u>Conclusions:</u> As a small graduate program, we will not graduate a student who fails to meet the threshold. For those struggling to meet the threshold, we provide one-on-one mentoring to help them achieve the threshold.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	We do not believe we need to make changes to the measurement instrument of methods for assessing success. Our methods in this area are similar to practices at our competing institutions.

Program Student Learning Outcome 5	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate knowledge of statistical tools necessary to conduct economic research.
Evaluation	This SLO remains relevant and crucial to our discipline.
Measurement Instruments	Targeted assignments in ECON 506 – Applied Statistical Methods course. Among the assignment given throughout the course, students were required to complete assignments that measured their competency in choosing and using the appropriate statistical tools necessary to conduct analysis of economic data.
Criteria & Targets	Upon completion of the program, students should perform at the Intermediate or Advanced level.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results:</u> All of our graduating students meet this target. <u>Conclusions:</u> As a small graduate program, we will not graduate a student who fails to meet the threshold. For those struggling to meet the threshold, we provide one-on-one mentoring to help them achieve the threshold.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	We do not believe we need to make changes to the measurement instrument of methods for assessing success. Our methods in this area are similar to practices at our competing institutions.