

**GRADUATE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REPORT, 2007-2008
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Program Name: _____ Master of Arts in Economics _____ **Date:** _____

School/College: _____ Economics _____ **Campus Box:** _____ 78 _____

Approved by Department of Economics Graduate Faculty: _____

A. Mission Statement

To prepare students careers in finance, industry and government or future graduate study, by providing them with analytical skills useful in decision-making and a broader understanding of the overall economic environment.

B. Constituents

Graduate students in the Department of Economics.

C. Program Objectives

- a. To keep course offerings and curriculum content up to date.
- b. To maintain a qualified faculty to teach graduate courses and supervise student research.
- c. To provide program flexibility, allowing students to pursue their individual objectives (e.g., prepare for further graduate studies or enhance their career skills).
- d. To annually enroll ten or more qualified students into the program.
- e. To have 80 percent of graduates obtain positions consistent with their goals

D. Educational Student Outcomes

- a. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the statistical toolkit used in economic research and the ability to use appropriate software.
- b. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct research in their chosen area of study
- c. mastery of basic macroeconomics models
- d. mastery of basic microeconomics models
- e. Students will demonstrate the ability to write effectively when expressing economic theories and application

E. Assessment of Program Objectives

a. Program Objective (a) – keep course offerings and curriculum content up to date:

- Inspection and evaluation of course syllabi as to topics presented, textbook used, readings assigned, and faculty background. The task will be performed by the Department's Graduate Curriculum/Assessment Committee which meets annually at the end of the spring semester. Curriculum is judged against offerings of masters programs at other universities. Currency of course content is based on the professional expertise of the committee.

Results:

b. Program Objective (b) – Providing qualified faculty for the program:

- More than 75% of the tenure-track faculty members must be members of the graduate faculty.
- With the exception of soon to be retired faculty, all tenure track faculty are expected to meet or exceed a publication record needed to be considered academically qualified by AACSB

Results

c. Program Objective (c) – provide program flexibility for students to pursue their individual academic objectives:

- Evaluation of answers to question #5 on annual student survey: The program currently offers three degree track options (Economic Analysis, Financial Economics, International Economics). Do these tracks and their respective requirements provide you with sufficient flexibility to meet your individual academic objectives. If not, what changes would you like to see made?"

Results:

d. Program Objective (d) – enroll 10 or more new, qualified students in degree-bound status

- Examine enrollment data provided by Graduate School.

Results:

e. Program Objective (e) – to have 80% of graduates obtain positions consistent with their goals

- Examine departmental data
- Examine data from Career Services Graduation Survey (subject to availability).

Results:

F. Assessment of Educational Student Outcomes

Educational Outcome (a) – Students will demonstrate knowledge of the statistical toolkit used in economic research and the ability to use appropriate software:

- Successfully complete assigned problem sets in Econ 731 requiring econometric software, as evidenced by grades of B grade or better.
- Successfully complete the forecasting project in Econ 803, as evidenced by a grade of B grade or better.
- Successful incorporation of statistical tools into independent project or thesis (where warranted).

Results:

Educational Outcome (b) – Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct research in their chosen area of study

- Successfully complete their independent project or thesis.

Results:

Educational Outcome (c) – mastery of basic microeconomics models

- Achievement on 2-3 exams given in Econ 804 (and 802, when offered) and 702, as evidenced by grades of B grade or better.

Results:

Educational Outcome (d) – mastery of basic macroeconomics models

- Achievement on 2-3 exams given in Econ 801, as evidenced by grades of B grade or better.
- Achievement on relevant exam topics Econ 702, as evidenced by grades of B or better.

Results:

Educational Outcome (e) – Students will demonstrate the ability to write effectively when expressing economic theories and application:

- Evaluated through the final project or thesis.
- Evaluated in forecasting project (Econ 803).

Results:

G. Feedback into the Program

Process:

The department has created a Graduate Curriculum/Assessment Committee composed of the graduate coordinator and a two faculty members appointed by the department chairperson. This committee meets annually to review the results of the assessment and to provide feedback into the program. The same committee also reviews the program mission, objectives, outcomes, and the assessment process periodically and in consultation with other faculty members. Recommended changes will be made to individual faculty members or the Executive Committee of the Department for implementation. The implemented changes will be monitored by the Graduate Curriculum/Assessment Committee for effectiveness. If effective, the changes become permanent. If not effective, additional changes will be considered by the Committee.

Results:

H. Goals from Memorandum of Understanding:

I. 2008-09 Assessment Plan: