

California State University, Stanislaus
Department of Economics
Assessment Report and Plan
2006-2007

MISSION

The mission of the Economics Department of California State University, Stanislaus is to help individuals develop critical thinking abilities and to utilize economic tools to achieve their goals in a world of increasingly complex economic relationships.

VALUES

The Economics Department Faculty respects individuals and their goals.

The Economics Department faculty values individual differences, a variety of learning styles and tools, teaching methods, and emphasizing different aspects of the content of the discipline.

The Economics Department values interaction with the community served by the University.

PROGRAM GOALS and STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. An understanding of the core theories and tools that economists use to understand and explain economic relationships.
OBJECTIVES:
 - Students will explain and apply economic terms, concepts, and theories.
 - Students will collect, process, and interpret data, including statistical inference.
 - Students will demonstrate quantitative reasoning skills.
2. Specialized knowledge of subfields within the discipline as preparation for a variety of educational and professional objectives.
OBJECTIVES:
 - Students will explain a variety of specific topics in economics.
 - Students will apply specialized tools and concepts to contemporary issues.
3. Awareness of the importance of international activities.
OBJECTIVES:
 - Students will demonstrate an awareness of global economic forces.
 - Students will evaluate the impact of various international policies and practices.
4. An ability to understand how core values, beliefs, and facts impact decision making.
OBJECTIVES:
 - Students will compare and contrast alternative explanations of economic events.
 - Students will explain how economic events and decisions are impacted by values and perceptions.

5. Skills to effectively communicate economic concepts.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will effectively communicate the results of analysis in a variety of written formats.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate economic concepts orally.

WHAT DATA WERE COLLECTED AND HOW?

Direct

- **Alumni Feedback:** Received feedback from alumni and students through the guestbook on their website and evening programs where students and alumni are invited to speak.

Indirect

- **Exit Survey:** Conducted from the Senior Seminar

WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING STUDENTS LEARNING WERE MADE?

This process led to an important discussion about what is included and not included in micro and macro principles courses. As a result we have an updated course description of each, and more consistency in what is taught in the courses.

We have also started to develop more specific concentrations. Instead of just telling students to take X number of courses, we are developing course groups that will also advise students about what they should take from other disciplines.

The discussions regarding the goals and objective have helped start conversations regarding mathematics requirements for majors. The discussions also helped us clarify what fields we need to fill when we are able to hire another person.