



Economics | 2015-2016 Assessment Report

1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year.

The assessment for this year focuses on two key skills needed by economic students: (1) The ability to use and interpret macroeconomic models presented graphically and (2) the ability to explain and apply core economic concepts such as differentiating between real and nominal economic variables, different time horizons, the Keynesian expenditure multiplier, etc.

To evaluate both of these skills embedded assessment using different rubrics was applied to different sections of the ECON 302 Final Exam, spring 2016.

Assessing Skill #1

The rubric employed to assess the first skill listed above was a scale ranging from 1.0 to 4.0 when evaluating student responses with following interpretation.

- 4.0 The student was able to draw and label the economic model (graph) correctly and interpret the model without error.
- 3.5 Very minor mistakes with respect to the above.
- 3.0 Minor mistakes with respect to the above.
- 2.0 Major mistakes with respect to the above.
- 1.0 Very major mistakes with respect to the above.

The class this spring was small, only five students, because of sharply declining economics enrollments.

Student scores

#1 1.8

#2 4.0

#3 3.6

#4 2.5

#5 2.8

Class Average: 2.9

Evaluation: The Economics faculty believes students need to score at least 2.75 to be considered proficient. Three out of five students (60%) met this standard. This is a large improvement from prior years where only 20 to 30 percent of students were judged proficient. However, the prior class sizes were much larger, in the 20 to 25 range.

Assessing Skill #2

The evaluation used to assess the second skill examined the responses to a series of short answer questions focused on the understanding of core macroeconomic concepts. Students were given full credit, partial credit, or no credit and then an average score calculated for the 16 questions in Parts I and II of the Final Exam Spring 2016.

Student Scores

#1 56%

#2 91%

#3 72%

#4 72%

#5 65%

Class average: 71%

Evaluation: The economics faculty believes students need to score 80% with respect to core economic concepts to be considered proficient. Only one out of five students (20%) met this standard. As a response to this low level of proficiency, the faculty teaching this course will focus more intently on the core economic concepts in both the lectures and homework assignments.