**Program Assessment Plan**

**Department of Economics**

**Learning Goals:**

1. Students achieve a working knowledge of the two core fields of economics: microeconomics and macroeconomics. They understand the concepts and theories, can apply them to real-world situations, and develop problem solving skills utilizing these concepts and theories.
2. Students achieve competency in the statistical analysis of economic behavior. They understand statistical inference and probability distributions. They can perform the calculations of statistical estimation, regressions analysis, time series analysis, and analysis of variance as well as interpret the results and test their reliability.
3. Students can research a complex, real-world economic issue, gather relevant data and information, research the relevant literature, apply economic and statistical reasoning appropriate to the issue, and present their findings in a clear and professional manner.

**Assessments:**

1. Economic students take two core theory courses (ECON 305 and ECON 310) as part of the major. Sample exams and papers are to be gathered from economics students to assess the level of competency. Student learning is assessed using rubrics partitioned by content areas and the level of complexity/difficulty. Within each cell the percentage of students achieving poor, fair or good level is recorded.
2. Economic students take two core statistical courses (ECON 200 and ECON 300) as part of the major. Sample exams and computer labs are to be gathered from economics students to assess the level of competency. Student learning is assessed using rubrics partitioned by content areas and the level of complexity/difficulty. Within each cell the percentage of students achieving poor, fair or good level is recorded.
3. The capstone Senior Seminar course (ECON 450), taken near the end of a student’s tenure in the department, provides an opportunity for students to apply the sum of their training to the analysis of a real-world economic issue. In the course of the Senior Seminar, multiple papers are written culminating in a lengthy research paper and presentation. Papers and presentation are evaluated by rubric. An exit interview of economic majors is conducted to assess strengths and weaknesses of the program; all economics faculty are encouraged to attend.

**Assessment Schedule:**

Microeconomics, macroeconomics and statistics are assessed on a three year rotation. Senior Seminar is assessed every year.

**Assessment Meetings:**

Annual assessment meetings of the Economics Faculty will cover

1. Review of the assessment for that year including goals and improvement plans implemented as the result of prior year assessments
2. Setting specific goals and plans for improvement based on assessment results
3. Development and approval of assessment instruments for the following year

**Responsibilities**:

The department chair is responsible for scheduling the assessment meetings, leading the discussion, and writing an annual department assessment report. Individual faculty members are responsible to design and grade assessment instruments in their area of expertise, as well as, to summarize the results for the chair. All faculty are responsible for implementing improvement plans.

**Record keeping:**

Assessment reports are kept in the department office, and a summary of assessment activities is contained in the department annual report.