

ECONOMICS

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ECONOMICS DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE/SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020

TYPE OF CHANGE:¹ Academic Change
 Degree Program Change (THECB² form required)

PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION:³ Exclusive General Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program? Yes No
- Is this program being deleted? Yes No
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes No
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes No

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

- All of the proposed changes are to the catalog text and are for clarity. There are no proposed changes to existing requirements of the major. The proposed change of a grade of at least C in Economics 329 already is implied by the prerequisite for Economics 420K; see below.
- “Economics 341” is being changed to “Economics 341K or 441K” for clarity.

Eco 441K already has been added to course inventory (and Eco 341K has been retained in course inventory). The Economics department plans to offer Eco 441K, starting in Fall 2018, in order to be able to offer a large number of seats with Independent Inquire (II) and Writing (Wr) flags. **The Economics department does not seek to increase the number of hours of course work required for the Economics major.**

Eco 441K includes an additional weekly hour. In that hour, students will undertake a research project and write a paper. The course requirements will allow both II and Wr flags to be put on Eco 441K. A course syllabus and documentation that the requirements of both flags are satisfied are available on request.

Because the Economics department plans to offer only Eco 441K (starting in Fall 2018), and Eco 341K or 441K must be taken in residence, almost all Economics majors will take Eco 441K and in doing so they will earn II and Wr flags (as well as picking up one credit hour of economics beyond the minimum of 28).

Economics majors who study abroad and who take Eco 341K at an exchange institution and students who take an approved substitute for Eco 341K at UT Austin can use Eco 341K to satisfy the Economics major requirement.

The number of students who take an approved substitute is not expected to change and therefore there will be no impact on other UT-Austin units. The approved substitute list for Eco 341K is STA 371G, STA 371H, STA 375 and M349R. We do not expect this list to change (and if it changes, it likely would be shortened). Only Economics majors who are dual degree students with McCombs have access to STA 371G, STA 371H, and STA 375. M349R is a restricted math course that is relevant only to some of the Economics majors who are also Math majors.

- The complete list of allowed combinations of mathematics courses is being added for clarity. The alternatives in the list currently are allowed by the Economics department. This list is also being added to the prerequisite for Economics 329, Economics 420K, and Economics 421K (Microeconomic Theory for Business). These alternatives currently satisfy the prerequisite for these courses. Adding the complete list of allowed combinations to the catalog text (and to the prerequisite for relevant courses) will make it easier for students working toward an Economics major to plan their curriculum.

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- The statement that “Eco 329 with a grade of at least C is a prerequisite for Eco 420K” is being added for clarity. That prerequisite has been in effect since Spring 2017.
- It is for clarity that we would like to state that a grade of at least C in Economics 329 is required. Economics 420K has a prerequisite of at least a C in Economics 329. Economics majors must take Economics 329 (and Economics 420K) at UT-Austin. Therefore, this requirement already is implied. Stating it will avoid confusion for students and will help advisers by allowing the requirement to be programmed into the degree audit system.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) | |

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes No
If yes, then how would you do so?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes No
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:

If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:

If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>

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If yes, explain:

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: Oct. 19, 2016

Approved by whom: Unanimous assent by tenured and tenure-track faculty (listed here):

(Jason Abrevaya, Venkataraman Bhaskar, Saroj Bhattarai, Sandra Black, Christoph Boehme, Svetlana Boyarchenko, Marika Cabral, Olivier Coibion, Stephen Donald, Michael Geruso, Andrew Glover, Sukjin Han, Brendan Kline, Leigh Linden, Dayanand Manoli, Eugenio Miravete, Richard Murphy, Nitya Pandalai Nayar, Gerald Oettinger, David Sibley, Daniel Slesnick, Dean Spears, Dale Stahl, Maxwell Stinchcombe, Caroline Thomas, Robert Town, Stephen Trejo, Thomas Wiseman, Haiqing Xu)

College approval date:

Approved by whom:

Dean approval date:

Approved by whom:

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:⁴

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All economics majors must earn grades of at least C- in ~~[either Mathematics 408C and 408D or]~~ Mathematics 408K and 408L. The following combinations of courses alternatively satisfy the math requirement: Mathematics 408C and 408D, Mathematics 408N and 408S, Mathematics 408K and 408S, Mathematics 408C and 408L, Mathematics 408C and 408S, and Mathematics 408N and 408L. Mathematics 403K and 403L (and transfer equivalents) may not be substituted for the required math courses.

Major

At least [T]twenty-eight semester hours of economics, consisting of Economics 304K, 304L, 420K, 320L, 329, 341K or 441K, and nine additional hours of upper-division coursework. At least six of the additional semester hours of upper-division coursework must be in courses for which a grade of at least C- in Economics 420K is a prerequisite. Economics 420K, 320L, 329, and 341K or 441K must be completed in residence. Economics majors must take Economics 420K at least two semesters prior to completion of the degree. All economics majors must earn a grade of at least C- in each course counted toward fulfillment of the major requirements, except Economics 329, in which a grade of at least C is required, Economics 329 with a grade of at least C is a prerequisite for Eco 420K. A minimum grade point average of at least 2.00 in all courses taken at the University and counted toward the major is also required.

No student may register for more than 10 semester hours of economics in any one semester without approval of an undergraduate adviser in the Department of Economics.

¹ See <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes> for detailed explanations.

² Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost's office (lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu); downloadable from URL <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/theCb-forms>

³ **EXCLUSIVE:** of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL:** of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).

⁴ The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/undergraduate/>

Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use track changes, and do not include hyperlinks in the catalog copy. Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at fc@austin.utexas.edu. For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.