Form E-1-A for Boston College Undergraduate Programs

Program: Social Science Core - Economics

1) Have formal learning outcomes been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the Program expect students to have acquired from taking Social Science core in Economics?)

(a) Students are expected to develop a basic understanding of economic theory and be able to apply this knowledge to analyze economic problems and interpret public policy alternatives across a range of issues such as poverty, international trade, the environment, and health care.

(b) Students are expected to understand analytical tools of economics including graphical analyses and simple algebra for working with economic models.

(c) Students are expected to articulate the strengths and limitations of economic models for explaining social phenomenon and making policy choices. They should appreciate how perspectives from other social science disciplines can enhance their understanding of enduring questions or complex contemporary problems.

(d) Students are expected to develop the ability to objectively interpret research findings from economic data and to integrate what they learn with the principles and values that guide their lives.

(e) Students are expected to understand the differences between positive and normative economics. In particular, they should be able to distinguish cases where efficiency and equity are compatible from those where tradeoffs are necessary.

2) Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the Program’s learning expectations accessible to students?)

The above learning outcomes will be posted on the University Core web page and on the Economics Department web page.

3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether students have achieved the stated outcomes for the program? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes are being achieved more or less well?)

(a) Instructors teaching the economics social science core courses (ECON 1131 and ECON 1132) each semester will use a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being highest) to evaluate how well the students in their classes achieved the outcomes listed above.
(b) Reports will be maintained in the Economics Department files of annual faculty meetings held to assess strengths and weaknesses of students taking the economics social science core courses (ECON 1131 and ECON 1132) and whether the curriculum needs modification.

(c) In addition, the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics will form and chair a faculty committee every third year to review the curriculum of the economics social science core courses (ECON 1131 and ECON 1132) and make recommendations to be discussed at the annual faculty meeting. A written report will be maintained in department files.

4) **Who interprets the evidence? What is the process?** (Who in the Program or Department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

   The Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics (DUS) will have primary responsibility for designing and implementing modifications to the economics core courses. The DUS reports to and is advised by the Economics Department faculty at an annual meeting to discuss undergraduate issues, curriculum and program modifications.