

Degree Program Productivity Report

Program Code:

ECON-0010

Program Title:

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Degree Abbreviation (B.A., B.S., M.A . ,M.S., Certificate, etc.):

BA

Department contact person:

Name: Frew Hailou – Chair

Phone Number: (304) 766-3057

Email: fhailou@WVSTATEU.EDU

Data relates only those students and faculty who are explicitly connected with this degree program.

	Academic Year 2017-2018	Academic Year 2018-2019	Academic Year 2019-2020	Academic Year 2020-2021
Student Enrollment- Majors	19	11	13	9
Graduates	7	11	11	8

1. How is the program beneficial to WVSU?

The Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Program) is important to WVSU for several reasons. The Program is internationally accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). ACBSP level accreditation requires continual evaluation and improvement of curriculum, learning performance of students, faculty development, staff support, and overall Program delivery to ensure students have the foundational knowledge and fundamental tools to respond to a constantly changing business and economic environment through active engagement in problem solving and decision making using academic knowledge. Program level Accreditation through ACBSP strengthens the overall University Accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) as both are focused on similar goals and stakeholder improvement outcomes.

Economics is a reputable, standalone discipline. In addition, many of the courses in the program fulfill the foundational requirements of other programs, in particular the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. The Economics program fulfills the statement mission of the University, which is to respond to the educational and economic development needs of the state, of which the latter cannot be achieved without an effective application of knowledge and skills acquired in economic education.

Upon successful completion, a student will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively and articulately in written, oral and electronic form as appropriate for business functions
2. Think critically about business issues, theory and application
3. Use effective human relationship skills to work in a diverse culture and function positively in a team environment
4. Apply critical thinking skills to identify what information is needed and how to obtain this information through appropriate technology, evaluating the quality and relevance of the sources and using the information effectively and ethically
5. Evaluate business problems, gather, manipulate and interpret data, analyze alternatives, decide on most effective solution, implement solution and monitor results for continuous improvement

2. How is the program central to the institutional mission?

The WVSU institutional mission reads as follows: “Our mission is to meet the higher education and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research”.

Faculty in the economics program are active in research. Recent examples include “The Rise of the Craft Beer Industry and its Impact on the WV Economy”, “Assessing the Impact of Evidence Based Programs in Reducing the Recidivism Rate in the State Prison System”, and “The Economic Impact of Senate Bill 278 in Kanawha County”, otherwise known as the Sunday Brunch Bill. The latter study was impactful, and frequently cited across the state and in the WV Legislature.

3. Does the program serve a profession with a critical employment shortage in WV or does this field of employment experience high turnover?

The program provides crucial skills that allow graduates to embark on a variety of careers in the private sector such as economic, financial, banking, and insurance analysts as well as the public sector such as administrators in government agencies and international organizations. Moreover, the economics program offers courses that are part of the foundational requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

As part of a continuous Program improvement approach driven by the specialized, international accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), a concentration in Agricultural Economics was formally added to the Program this academic year. Processes for approving this new concentration included studies and analysis of market demand for graduates of this concentration.

4. Is the program closely related to other programs at WVSU?

Due to the interrelated nature of certain topics, the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program (ECON Program) is frequently earned as a second degree by students in the closely related, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Program (BSBA Program). The Finance concentration of the BSBA Program concentration is the most efficient curriculum match for students desiring to pursue to the ECON Program double major. Each academic year, several students enrolled in the Finance concentration, and other concentrations of the BSBA Program decide to pursue the double major. The Accounting concentration of the BSBA Program is aligned with Professional Standards and legislative regulations that ensure students meet certain coursework requirements in order to be academically eligible to sit for professional certifications such as the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) Exam. The CPA exam requires that students meet certain education coursework requirements directly related to the profession and that they have earned a minimum 150 credit hours to be academically eligible. These requirements lead many BSBA Program students to pursue a double major at WVSU from other Academic Programs, most commonly Economics.

5. What is the relationship between Upper Division Enrollment and Graduates?

The number of graduates is high relative to the number of majors because of the large number of graduates who are earning economics as a second degree. See response to question number 4.

BA in Economics Upper Division Enrollment and Graduation Rates by Academic Year				
	AY 17-18	AY 18-19	AY 19-20	AY 20-21
Economics (Junior and Senior status 60-120+ CHs)	17	12	12	6
Graduates	6	12	11	8
	35.3%	100%	91.7%	133%
<small>Students enrolled in both fall and spring terms were counted only once per academic year to arrive at a non-duplicated count of upper-division BA in Economics majors</small>				

- Additional details that contribute to graduation rates.

- Course sequencing

Courses offered in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program (Program) are done so with careful thought toward efficient use of University resources. The number of course sections are continually evaluated to ensure the minimum number of sections are offered to assist with cost-efficiencies while ensuring the diverse modality requirements for both face-to-face and fully online students. One and two-hundred level Program courses are offered each semester. Three and Four-hundred level courses are offered on a rotating basis, generally once per year.

- What are the barriers that impact progress to degree, e.g., high fail courses, high number of pre-requisites, course rotation, etc.?

Faculty work closely with each other and students to ensure all students who want to complete the BA in Economics degree are able to do so. Course substitutions are considered on a case by case basis.

- Are academic plans available for undergraduate.

See Program concentration attachments located at the end of this document – labeled BA in Economics Program Degree Maps.

- Are summer school and/or online course offerings available?

Summer school and online courses are available for introductory level economics courses.

- How many credit hours in your program are offered that do not count as a major requirement?

All courses offered in the program count toward a major requirement.

- What are your specific plans to improve your degree conversion ratio? Make sure to include how and when you plan to track progress (i.e., your evaluation plan)?

The Program has implemented the following to assist with improving degree conversion:

- The Registrar's Office has instituted 60 credit hour progress checks for students to inform them of any necessary coursework needing completed before proceeding much beyond their sixtieth credit hour.
- The Program has instituted 90 credit hour checks to help students attain their degrees. Examples of items evaluated as part of the 90 credit hour checks include overall coursework Grade Point Average, Program subject matter coursework Grade Point Average, credit hours remaining in required curriculum, credit hours required to reach the 120 credit hours needed for the degree.

All degree conversion ratio improvement efforts can be assessed annually via comparison of upper-level enrollment to degrees awarded. Additional University level resources related to retention, tracking, and reporting of degree conversion efforts would be extremely beneficial to Program efforts.

- Address strengths and/or weaknesses of the program.

The Bachelor of Arts in Economics Program (Program) is an integral part of the course offerings for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) Program, which historically is one of the largest programs at the University.

- The strengths and efficiencies of the Program result from the consolidated and integrated nature of the Program with the BSBA Program.

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- The Program is internationally accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).
- The Program currently is, and has a strong history of, being central to the institutional mission of West Virginia State University.
- The Program offers fully online courses to support the desire of students for different modalities.
- Articulation agreements are prioritized by the Program as many of our students transfer to WVSU from both two-year and four-year higher education institutions.
 - The Program has been, and currently is, executing goals and strategies outlined in a strategic plan developed as part of its Specialized Accreditation with ACBSP that specifically relates to enrollment, student advising, student resources, and a renewed a sense of community via industry partnerships.

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ATTACHMENT – BA in Economics Program Degree Maps



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS

First Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
GED 101 - Freshman Experience	3					
ENGL 101 - English Composition I	3	Milestone Course	Complete ENGL 101 with a "D" or higher			
MATH 118 - College Algebra W/ Business Applications	3	Milestone Course	Complete MATH 118, 118E, or MATH 120 with a "D" or higher			
ECON 101 - American Economy	3					
COMM 100 - Speech Communication	3					
Semester Total	15					

Second Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ENGL 102 - English Composition II	3	Milestone Course	Complete ENGL 102 with a "D" or higher			
◆ ECON 109 - Intro to World Economy	3					
◆ BIOL 101 - Principles of Biology	4					
◆ ART 101 - Studio I Introduction to Art	3					
BA 115 - Business Information Skills	3					
Semester Total	16					

Third Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 201 - Principles of Macroeconomics	3	Milestone Course	Complete ECON 201 with a "D" or higher			
BA 210 - Business Law I	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 210 with a "D" or higher			
◆ HIST 202 - World History	3					
BA 203 - Business Statistics	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 203 with a "C" or higher			
BA 215 - First Year Accounting I	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 215 with a "C" or higher			
Semester Total	15					

Fourth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
◆ CHEM 100 - Consumer Chemistry	3					
◆ COMM 140 - Film Appreciation	3					
ECON 202 - Principles of Microeconomics	3	Milestone Course	Complete ECON 202 with a "D" or higher			
BA 209 - Math Analysis for Bus Dec	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 209 with a "D" or higher			
BA 216 - First Year Accounting II	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 216 with a "C" or higher			
Semester Total	15					

Fifth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 301 - Intermediate Macroeconomics	3	Milestone Course				
BA 301 - Organization and Management	3					
Free Elective	3					
ECON 308 - Money, Bank, and Monetary Theory	3					
BA 363 - Intermediate Accounting I	3					
Semester Total	15					

Sixth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 302 - Intermediate Microeconomics	3					
BA 305 - Principles of Marketing	3					
ECON 306 - Public Finance, Taxation and Public Policy	3					
Free Elective	3					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	15					

Seventh Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
BA 313 - Business Finance	3					
Free Elective	3					
Free Elective	3					
◆ HHP 122 - Fitness for Living	2					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	14					

Eighth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 420 - Senior Seminar	3					
BA 414 - Investments	3					
ECON 410 - International Economics	3					
Free Elective	3					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	15					

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS 120

◆ See reverse of this page for General Education coursework options

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BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN SOCIAL SCIENCE ECONOMICS

First Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
GED 101 - Freshman Experience	3					
ENGL 101 - English Composition I	3	Milestone Course	Complete ENGL 101 with a "D" or higher			
MATH 118 - College Algebra W/ Business Applications	3	Milestone Course	Complete MATH 118, 118E, or MATH 120 with a "D" or higher			
ECON 101 - American Economy	3					
COMM 100 - Speech Communication	3					
Semester Total	15					

Second Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ENGL 102 - English Composition II	3	Milestone Course	Complete ENGL 102 with a "C" or higher			
◆ ECON 109 - Intro to World Economy	3					
◆ BIOL 101 - Principles of Biology	4					
◆ ART 101 - Studio I Introduction to Art	3					
◆ COMM 140 - Film Appreciation	3					
Semester Total	16					

Third Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 201 - Principles of Macroeconomics	3	Milestone Course	Complete ECON 201 with a "D" or higher			
BA 210 - Business Law I	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 210 with a "D" or higher			
◆ HIST 202 - World History	3					
BA 203 - Business Statistics	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 203 with a "C" or higher			
PSYC 151 - General Psychology	3					
Semester Total	15					

Fourth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
◆ CHEM 100 - Consumer Chemistry	3					
ECON 202 - Principles of Microeconomics	3	Milestone Course	Complete ECON 202 with a "D" or higher			
BA 209 - Math Analysis for Bus Dec	3	Milestone Course	Complete BA 209 with a "D" or higher			
■ POSC 204 - State and Local Politics	3					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	15					

Fifth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 301 - Intermediate Macroeconomics	3					
Free Elective	3					
■ SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology	3					
ECON 308 - Money, Bank, and Monetary Theory	3					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	15					

Sixth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 302 - Intermediate Microeconomics	3					
Free Elective	3					
ECON 306 - Public Finance, Taxation and Public Policy	3					
ECON 315 - Behavioral Economics	3					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	15					

Seventh Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
BA 313 - Business Finance	3					
ECON 318 - Financial Economics	3					
Free Elective	3					
◆ HHP 122 - Fitness for Living	2					
ECON 416 - International Finance	3					
Semester Total	14					

Eighth Semester	Hours	Milestone(s)	Milestone Note	Grade	Credits	Term
ECON 420 - Senior Seminar	3					
ECON 340 - Contemporary Economic Issues	3					
ECON 410 - International Economics	3					
Free Elective	3					
Free Elective	3					
Semester Total	15					

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS 120

◆ See reverse of this page for General Education coursework options

■ See reverse of this page for Social Science Education coursework options

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GENERAL EDUCATION COMPONENT AND COURSEWORK OPTIONS

Students in bachelor degree programs must complete the minimum number of hours indicated in each of the General Education components for a total of 35-41 credit hours. Your major field curriculum specifies courses or course categories that you must complete.

Courses with a ♦ indicate that the course is recommended from a list of courses within a specific General Education Component. Students may choose to take another course within the same General Education Component in place of the recommended course. For descriptions of these courses, consult the online West Virginia State University Catalog.

Some prerequisite requirements are listed in the course schedule; others are at the end of the course descriptions. Be sure you meet the prerequisites for a particular course before enrolling in the course. The courses listed are three credit hour courses except where noted otherwise.

Arts (3 credit hours)
♦ ART 101 Studio I - Introduction to Art
ART 101H Studio I - Introduction to Art (Honors)
COMM 170 The Art of the Theater
MUSIC 107 Appreciation of Music

Natural Science (3-4 credit hours)
BIOL 101 Principles of Biology (4 credits)
BIOL 101H Principles of Biology (Honors) (4 credits)
BIOL 108 Environmental Biology (4 credits)
BIOL 110 Economic Biology (4 credits)
BIOL 120 Fundamentals of Biology (4 credits)
♦ CHEM 100 Consumer Chemistry (3 credits)
CHEM 100H Consumer Chemistry (Honors) (3 credits)
CHEM 132 Introductory Environmental Chemistry (3 credits)
PHYS 101 Physical Science Survey I (3 credits)
PHYS 102 Physical Science Survey II (4 credits)
PHYS 103 Elements of Physical Science (3 credits)
PHYS 106 Intro. to Physical Geology (4 credits)
PHYS 107 Historical Geology (4 credits)
PHYS 110 Weather and Climate (4 credits)
PHYS 111 Energy and the Environment (4 credits)
PHYS 120 Astronomy (3 credits)
PHYS 121 Astronomy Lab (1 credit)

International Perspectives (3 credit hours)
COMM 446 International Cinema
INTS 210 Introduction to International Perspectives
INTS 250 Diversity in Africana Studies
♦ ECON 109 Intro to World Economy
ENGL 350 World Literature Classical Era
ENGL 351 World Literature Modern Era
ENGL 440 Interpreting the Holocaust
FREN 101 Beginning French
FREN 102 Elementary French
FREN 205 A View of Changing Culture
FREN 443 West African Culture
GERM 101 Beginning German
GERM 102 Elementary German
SPAN 101 Beginning Spanish
SPAN 102 Elementary Spanish
SPAN 205 Spain and its Culture
POSC 210 International Relations
POSC 415 Arab Middle East
PHIL 308 World Religions
EDUC 319 Content Area Literacy
EDUC 321 Teaching Writing in the Elementary School

Scientific Reasoning (3 - 4 credit hours)
♦ BIOL 101 Principles of Biology (4 credits)
BIOL 101H Principles of Biology (Honors) (4 credits)
BIOL 108 Environmental Biology (4 credits)
BIOL 110 Economic Biology (4 credits)
BIOL 120 Fundamentals of Biology (4 credits)
CHEM 100 Consumer Chemistry (3 credits)
CHEM 100H Consumer Chemistry (Honors) (3 credits)
CHEM 132 Introductory Environmental Chemistry (3 credits)
PHYS 101 Physical Science Survey I (3 credits)
PHYS 102 Physical Science Survey II (4 credits)
PHYS 103 Elements of Physical Science (3 credits)
PHYS 106 Intro. to Physical Geology (4 credits)
PHYS 107 Historical Geology (4 credits)
PHYS 110 Weather and Climate (4 credits)
PHYS 111 Energy and the Environment (4 credits)
PHYS 120 Astronomy (3 credits)
PHYS 121 Astronomy Lab (1 credit)

History (3 credit hours)
HIST 201 World History
HIST 201H World History (Honors)
♦ HIST 202 World History
HIST 207 American History to 1865
HIST 208 American History from 1865

Humanities (3 credit hours)
ART 100 Art Appreciation
♦ COMM 140 Film Appreciation
COMM 140H Film Appreciation (Honors)
ENGL 150 Introduction to Literature
ENGL 150H Introduction to Literature (Honors)
MUSIC 104 American Music A Panorama

Wellness (2 credit hours)
♦ HHP 122 Fitness for Living
HHP 157 Healthy Living
HHP 157H Healthy Living (Honors)
HHP 242 Team Sports II

BA 420: Senior Seminar Requirements

BA 420: Senior Seminar is to be taken only after completion of the following business core classes prior to the semester you will be taking it. Business Core classes are as follows: BA 115, 203, 209, 215, 216, 301, 305, 310, and 313.

In addition to the requirements of BA 420: Senior Seminar, the Department of Business Administration and Economics requires that all graduating students undertake the following:

- 1) Take the Major Field Test in business (administered as part of BA 420)
- 2) Complete the Graduate Exit Survey (completed as part of BA 420)

Degree Requirements & Graduation

Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling requirements for graduation. Accordingly, they should carefully read the catalog and curriculum requirements. The University cannot assume responsibility for failure of students to fulfill catalog and curriculum requirements. If questions arise about requirements, students should consult with the appropriate department chair, college dean or the Registrar several semesters prior to graduation. See below listed requirements for Graduation and consult your respective year WVU Academic Catalog.

1. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (i.e., a C average) on all work attempted with the exception of developmental courses and courses with grades of P, K, W, and AUD.
2. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in major and minor (if applicable) courses. The department will identify the courses that count toward the major and the major cumulative grade point average.
3. Completion of the total number of hours required in the curriculum elected.
4. The necessary residence requirement for a degree.
5. Payment of all outstanding financial obligations to the University.
6. All grades of I and Q must be satisfied before graduation.

Comments:
