

Economics Department

Program Review Presentation

Cohort 2022-2023



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What is Economics?

Economics is a **social science** that deals with the allocation of scarce resources to satisfy unlimited human wants.



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Economics Department - Profile

- As of Spring 2023, the Economics Department has 3 full-time faculty and one part-time faculty. Our FTE for Fall 2022 was 3.2 at the main campus and 0.4 at Natomas. Our FTE for Spring 2023 is 3.4 at the main campus and 0.4 at Natomas.
- The Economics Department has 3 courses offered: (ECN 302, ECN 304 and ECN 320). ECN 310 has now been approved and we will offer classes starting Fall 2023. ECN 305 will be offered in the future.
- The Economics Program now has an AA degree for Transfer since 2014.



Program -- Challenges

The challenges faced by the Economics department prior to the Covid-19 pandemic include:

- Low enrollment
- Underprepared students because Math 100 prerequisites have been removed.
- Lower success rates in online classes compared to face-to-face classes.
- Fewer classes and adjunct professors



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Program -- Challenges

The challenges faced by the Economics department since Covid-19 pandemic also include:

- Low enrollment in face-to-face classes
- Further enrollment decline
- Econ department is placed in a homebase away from other Social Science disciplines (Sociology, Political Science, Psychology). The Economics department faculty are unanimously against this move.



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Program -- Strengths

The Faculty:

- Have expertise in diverse economics fields and can develop additional transfer courses to be included in the Economics AA-T degree.
- Have shown flexibility when asked to teach fully on-line as a result of the pandemic.
- Have a great relationship with other programs and campus resources such as RAD, WAC, Beacon and FDIP. (Economics has one of the highest success rates when taken with RAD).



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Overall Enrollment

SUBJECT	FALL 2017	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020	FALL 2021	FALL 2021 OVER FALL 2020 % CHANGE
ECON	812	887	923	986	858	-12.98 %

Enrollment by Ethnicity

(Note that the following counts are duplicated in that a given Asian student enrolled in three classes is counted three times)

SUBJECT	ETHNICITY	FALL 2017	FALL 2018	FALL 2019	FALL 2020	FALL 2021	FALL 2021 OVER FALL 2020 % CHANGE
ECON	African American	58	73	68	57	80	40.35 %
ECON	Asian	115	152	124	137	133	-2.92 %
ECON	Filipino	19	26	19	34	27	-20.59 %
ECON	Hispanic/Latino	184	199	228	245	195	-20.41 %
ECON	Multi-Race	63	80	68	59	63	6.78 %
ECON	Native American	4	2	5	3	7	133.33 %
ECON	Other Non-White	2	2	2	2	1	-50 %
ECON	Pacific Islander	10	7	8	9	7	-22.22 %
ECON	Unknown	9	13	21	20	15	-25 %
ECON	White	348	333	380	420	330	-21.43 %



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Figure 1A. DFW Percent All Ethnicities - Economics

Course Grade	A	B	C	D	F	W	Total	DFW percent	
Fall 2013		245	237	148	47	90	204	972	35.1
Fall 2014		201	218	161	49	75	210	915	36.5
Fall 2015		254	218	166	55	99	133	930	30.9
Fall 2016		206	217	161	62	99	141	888	34.0
Fall 2017		217	188	153	32	98	123	812	31.2
Fall 2018		230	231	152	43	96	132	887	30.6
Fall 2019		231	222	172	53	113	130	924	32.0
Fall 2020		328	234	126	33	120	142	986	29.9
Fall 2021		280	207	109	28	116	118	858	30.5

Figure 1B. DFW Percent All Ethnicities - BSS

Course Grade	A	B	C	D	F	W	Total	DFW percent	
Fall 2013		2880	2872	2130	839	1511	2493	12840	37.7
Fall 2014		2787	2695	2110	736	1482	2623	12585	38.5
Fall 2015		2952	2741	2003	680	1311	2311	12124	35.5
Fall 2016		2927	2682	1631	582	1255	2007	11160	34.4
Fall 2017		2933	2484	1587	504	1046	1805	10444	32.1
Fall 2018		3096	2549	1568	520	1139	1671	10608	31.4
Fall 2019		3539	2716	1613	522	1125	1789	11432	30.1
Fall 2020		3887	2463	1347	362	1108	1834	11094	29.8
Fall 2021		3710	2150	1129	295	1095	1485	9994	28.8



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Figure 2A. DFW Percent for African Americans - Economics

Course Grade	A	B	C	D	F	W	DFW Percent	
Fall 2013		12	11	12	7	23	33	64.3
Fall 2014		6	12	17	4	10	24	52.1
Fall 2015		8	13	17	6	12	14	44.4
Fall 2016		4	14	13	10	13	14	54.4
Fall 2017		10	11	9	2	13	13	48.3
Fall 2018		7	17	9	6	16	18	54.8
Fall 2019		1	18	18	4	17	10	45.6
Fall 2020		9	14	8	3	14	9	45.6
Fall 2021		15	16	15	1	16	17	42.5

Figure 1A. DFW Percent for African Americans - BSS

Course Grade	A	B	C	D	F	W	Percent	
Fall 2013		151	261	240	121	293	435	55.7
Fall 2014		148	234	255	99	261	437	54.0
Fall 2015		159	236	256	110	223	321	49.4
Fall 2016		151	220	184	78	181	297	49.6
Fall 2017		154	209	175	72	164	235	46.4
Fall 2018		177	207	151	67	167	229	46.2
Fall 2019		245	265	168	69	157	212	38.8
Fall 2020		237	216	154	33	158	200	38.7
Fall 2021		249	153	113	32	154	193	41.5



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Objectives

The Economics Department aims to:

- Improve success rates of all students taking economics classes at ARC.*
- Significantly lower the DFW rates of students, particularly those who belong to groups that historically belonged to the disproportionately impacted groups (African Americans, Latinos, low income, etc.)*
- Increase the number of students who graduate with an AA-T degree in Economics.*
- Increase the number of students who transfer to the CSU system and the UC system with the intent of pursuing a 4-year degree in economics.*



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Strategic Enhancement

The Economics Department faculty believe that we can achieve our objectives if the following conditions hold:

- 1) Improved math preparation
- 2) Improved reading comprehension
- 3) Increased textbook usage with low-cost and zero-cost textbooks.



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Planning Steps

The faculty in the Economics Department intend to :

Reduce textbook costs to increase textbook usage and access – the Economics Department is part of the ARC OER Award Program for Spring 2023. We hope to use this opportunity to develop OER materials that we can use for future classes.

Improve equity in the classroom – we plan to attend trainings that will help us implement more equity-minded policies in the classroom and course materials for the classroom.

Encourage more students to take RAD classes.



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