

**Course Level Assessment**

**Principles of Macroeconomics (ECN 201)**

**Fall 2006 Assessment**

**2/05/2007**

**Submitted by Seyed Mirkhani**

**Approved by Learner Outcomes Team: April 6, 2007**

The purpose of this report is to present the methodology and findings for the course level assessment of Principles of Macroeconomics (ECN 201). Principles of Macroeconomics serves as a required technical core course in the Business Management program. This course presents and analyses macroeconomic principles as to their applicability to problems of public policy. To assure that Principles of Macroeconomics is meeting its intended purpose in the curriculum and that students are in fact achieving the defined course learning outcomes identified on the Master Course Record Form (See Attachment A), this course was selected for a course level assessment project to discern attainment of specified learning outcomes across multiple class sections.

This course also serves as a social science core course or as a general elective for non-business majors.

## **Methodology**

Principles of Macroeconomics course outcomes will be assessed on a cyclical basis over three years beginning with the fall 2006 semester. Each year, a minimum of four course learning outcomes will be selected for evaluation. Dependent upon assessment findings, some outcomes will be assessed over multiple years to validate effectiveness of changes in curriculum or course materials. Exam questions addressing the target learning outcomes serve as indicators of student attainment of course learning outcomes. These exam questions are incorporated across all sections of ECN 201 during the assessment cycle. The minimum performance standard is set at 80%. At least 80% of the students completing the common indicators administered via the course examination will select the correct response. In the event that the minimum performance standard is

not met, the unmet learning outcome will be targeted for further monitoring. The results may also trigger an evaluation of course materials supporting the learning outcome, revision of course materials or further curriculum revision.

In the fall 2006 semester, four course learning outcomes were selected for assessment in all sections of Principles of Macroeconomics. The target learning outcomes include:

<b>Outcome 1:</b> Analyze Gross Domestic Product components
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Analyze scarcity
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Explain economic resources
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Describe law of demand

To assess these learning outcomes standard questions were administered. All students enrolled in this section completed the standard questions. Thirty-four students were included in this sample. The outcomes and corresponding indicators are listed in Figure 1. Results were compiled for each indicator denoting the percent of students selecting the correct response for each indicator. Findings from the data for each outcome are presented in the results section of this report.

Learning Outcome	Indicator
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Analyze Gross Domestic Product components</p>	<p>A nation's gross domestic product (GDP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) can be found by summing <math>C + I_g + G + X_n</math>.</li> <li>B) is the dollar value of the total output produced by its citizens, regardless of where they are living.</li> <li>C) can be found by summing <math>C + S + G + X_n</math>.</li> <li>D) is always some amount less than its NDP.</li> </ul> <p>Answer: A</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Analyze scarcity The scarcity problem:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) persists only because countries have failed to achieve continuous full employment.</li> <li>B) persists because economic wants exceed available productive resources.</li> <li>C) has been solved in all industrialized nations.</li> <li>D) has been eliminated in affluent societies such as the United States and Canada.</li> </ul> <p>Answer: B</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Explain economic resources</p>	<p>The four factors of production are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) land, labor, capital, and money</li> <li>B) land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurial ability</li> <li>C) labor, capital, technology, and entrepreneurial ability</li> <li>D) labor, capital, entrepreneurial ability, and money</li> </ul> <p>Answer: B</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Describe law of demand</p>	<p>The law of demand states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) price and quantity demanded are inversely related.</li> <li>B) the larger the number of buyers in a market, the lower will be product price.</li> <li>C) price and quantity demanded are directly related.</li> <li>D) consumers will buy more of a product at high prices than at low prices.</li> </ul> <p>Answer: A</p>

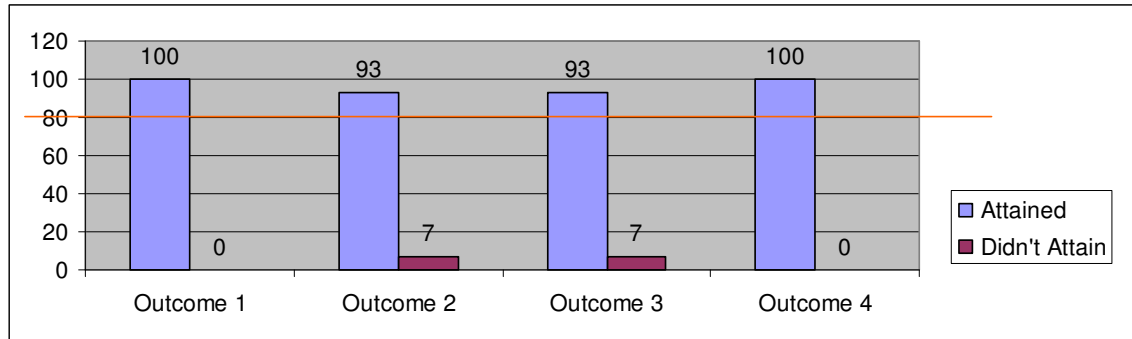
Figure 1: Assessed Outcomes and Indicators

## Results

Based on the existing data, all of the four learning outcomes were met at the minimum performance standard (See Table 1). All of the students successfully completed the identified indicator for Learning Outcomes one and four and ninety-three

percent of the students completed the identified indicator for Learning Outcomes two and three.

Table 1: Distribution of Performance Standards for Outcomes 1 Through 4



These four important outcomes are regularly discussed and analyzed in microeconomics. Significant emphasis on these four outcomes has contributed to meeting the minimum performance standard. Considering that all the outcomes were met and given the sample size, no changes will be recommended for the presentation of materials for the four target learning outcomes. However, additional outcomes will be measure and added to the ongoing assessment of ECN 201. Additional questions will be administered across future sections of the course to measure other outcomes.

### Conclusion and Action Plan

Overall, students satisfactorily met the minimum performance standard established for all four target learning outcomes. However, it is important to note that as a pilot project, this does not establish a trend of success for student achievement. Additionally, the small sample size may be a factor in attainment. Course data will be collected and assessed on a continuous basis for the three year cycle to allow for assessment of more course outcomes incorporating a larger sample. More specific

questions will be included in the assessment activities to measure student learning outcomes. At least eight questions focusing on eight outcomes will be used to establish patterns and obtain a broader result.

These results will be discussed with the instructor who taught this course. These results will also be presented to the instructor(s) who will teach this course in the future. These and future assessment results will serve as the basis for determining need for course and course material revisions.

**Eastern WV Community & Technical College  
Master Course Record**

<b>Course Prefix and Number:</b> ECN 201
<b>Course Title:</b> Principles of Macroeconomics
<b>Recommended Transcript Title</b> Principles of Macroeconomics
<b>Date Approved/Revised</b>
<b>Credit Hours:</b> 3 <b>Contact hours per week (Based on 15 week term):</b> <b>Lecture:</b> 3 <b>Lab:</b>
<b>Prerequisite:</b> <b>Corequisite:</b> <b>Pre/Corequisite:</b>
<b>Grading Mode:</b> Letter
<b>Catalog Description:</b> This course presents and analyzes macroeconomic principles as to their applicability to problems of public policy. Macroeconomics is concerned with aggregates or the economy as a whole. Two major divisions of the course are: The study of income and employment theory and the study of monetary theory. This course can stand alone as an introduction to economics or can be taken in conjunction with Principles of Economics II, microeconomics.
<b>Course Outcomes:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analyze Keynesian challenge</li> <li>2. analyze (un)employment</li> <li>3. construct consumption function</li> <li>4. construct circular flow model</li> <li>5. construct aggregate expenditure curve</li> <li>6. compare basic economic systems</li> <li>7. define economics</li> <li>8. analyze National Income components</li> <li>9. describe business cycles</li> <li>10. analyze Keynesian aggregate expenditure</li> <li>11. analyze impact of price level changes</li> <li>12. analyze Gross Domestic Product components</li> <li>13. analyze equation of exchange</li> <li>14. analyze economic model construction</li> <li>15. analyze classical economic theory</li> <li>16. analyze aggregate supply</li> <li>17. analyze aggregate demand</li> <li>18. analyze scarcity</li> <li>19. describe money creation</li> <li>20. identify financial markets</li> </ol>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. explain supply/demand changes</li> <li>22. explain Say's Law</li> <li>23. explain opportunity costs</li> <li>24. explain monetary policy</li> <li>25. explain equilibrium</li> <li>26. construct production possibilities curve</li> <li>27. describe national debt</li> <li>28. identify money supply components</li> <li>29. describe law of supply</li> <li>30. describe law of demand</li> <li>31. describe government revenues</li> <li>32. describe government expenditures</li> <li>33. describe forms of money</li> <li>34. describe fiscal policy</li> <li>35. describe Federal Reserve System</li> <li>36. describe federal deficit formation</li> <li>37. explain economic resources</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation Cycle: Fall This is required in fall 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Bus Mgt program</b>
<b>Role in College Curriculum:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>General Education Core (Social Science)</b></li> <li>• <b>Technical Core (Business Management)</b></li> <li style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Restricted Elective</b></li> <li>• <b>General Elective</b></li> </ul>
<b>Course Fee: None</b>
<b>Instructor's Qualifications: Master's degree with 18 graduate level business credits</b>
<b>Expanded Course Description:</b> Topics include aggregate demand, investment, saving, inflation, recession, unemployment, money and banking, national income determination, monetary and fiscal policy.

Prepared by: Seyed Mirkhani, Academic Program Director for Business Technologies

September 29, 2006

Signature, Title

Date

Approved by:

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Dean, Academic Services



**Appendix B:  
Summary of Outcomes, Indicators, Performance Standards and Results**

<b>Course Level Assessment: Fall 2006 ECN 201: Principles of Macroeconomics</b>				
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Percent of Correct Responses</b>	<b>Percent of Incorrect Responses</b>	<b>Performance Standard Met (80%)</b>
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Analyze Gross Domestic Product components	A nation's gross domestic product (GDP): A) can be found by summing $C + I_g + G + X_n$ . B) is the dollar value of the total output produced by its citizens, regardless of where they are living. C) can be found by summing $C + S + G + X_n$ . D) is always some amount less than its NDP. Answer: A	100% (34)	0% (0)	Yes
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Analyze scarcity The scarcity problem:	A) persists only because countries have failed to achieve continuous full employment. B) persists because economic wants exceed available productive resources. C) has been solved in all industrialized nations. D) has been eliminated in affluent societies such as the United States and Canada. Answer: B	93% (32)	7% (2)	Yes
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Explain economic resources	The four factors of production are: A) land, labor, capital, and money B) land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurial ability C) labor, capital, technology, and entrepreneurial ability D) labor, capital, entrepreneurial ability, and money Answer: B	93% (32)	7% (2)	Yes
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Describe law of demand	The law of demand states that: A) price and quantity demanded are inversely related. B) the larger the number of buyers in a market, the lower will be product price. C) price and quantity demanded are directly related. D) consumers will buy more of a product at high prices than at low prices. Answer: A	100% (34)	0% (0)	Yes