SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS

concerning

REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Presented at the
768th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 27, 2017

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL


ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

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PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

As part of the plan to replace the Global Education requirement in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) with program-specific requirements, the Department of Economics is proposing to revise its major. The significant changes from current requirements are:

1. The minimum number of required credits for the major will increase from 41 to 50.
2. Students must complete an international/intercultural education requirement. The requirement can be satisfied through five options: 9 credits of SBS courses from an approved list; 9 credits of language study; a combination of at least 6 credits of language study and 3 credits of approved coursework; completion of an approved certificate; completion of 9 credits in an IPO-approved study-abroad program.

At its meeting on April 6, 2016, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposed Revision of the B.A. Major Requirements in the Department of Economics. It was submitted as proposal #2751 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

On April 19, 2017, the Academic Priorities Council endorsed approval of this proposal subject after two requested changes were made. The first is that fulfillment of department level international and intercultural requirements can be fulfilled by departmentally approved study abroad. The second is that “At least one course taken to fulfill the major’s international/intercultural requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

At its meeting on March 22, 2017, the Program and Budget Council voted 9 Yes, 5 No and 1 Abstention on the proposal #2751, Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Department of Economics, as part of a group of related proposals (#s 2748 through 2756 in the Course and Curriculum Management System). It addressed its comments to the framework proposal (#2748).

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Department of Economics, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-062.
Please describe your proposal.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences seeks to transform the international and intercultural education focus in our curriculum from the college-based Global Education Requirement for B.A. majors to an integrated theme that is incorporated directly into strengthened and updated B.A. major requirements. (See Proposal 2748 in the UMass Course and Curriculum Management System.)

To graduate, students in the Economics major must currently fulfill the Global Education Requirement of 15 credits plus their major requirements of a minimum of 44 credits. After the proposed change, students in the Economics major will fulfill expanded major requirements totaling 3 courses (9-12 credits) that incorporate international and intercultural education directly into the major in a manner tailored to our discipline. The current college level Global Education Requirement will be ended for students in the Economics major.

The new major level international and intercultural related requirements can be fulfilled through a list of courses designated by the department, by foreign language courses, or by departmentally approved study abroad. Students may also complete a certificate from a designated department list to fulfill this requirement.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The current major requirements are:

Math 127, or 131, or Econ 151  
Math 128, or 132, or Econ 152  
Res-Econ 212, or Stats 240, or Stats 501, or Stats 515

Econ 103 Introduction to Microeconomics (ResEc 102)  
Econ 104 Introduction to Macroeconomics  
Econ 203 Intermediate Microeconomics (ResEc 202)  
Econ 204 Intermediate Macroeconomics  
Econ 397 W Junior Year Writing  
Integrative Experience  
4 upper-level economics courses, 3 credits each, 300 or higher

Option A: 2 additional upper level economics courses, 3 credits each, 300 or higher  
Option B: Complete one of the following collateral field options:  
• Any minor or certificate program or additional major  
• Any combination of five courses in Isenberg School of Management, 3 credits each, numbered 200 or higher  
• A group of five courses, 3 credits each, numbered 300 or higher, chosen by the student and approved by the Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Economics prior to the student enrolling in the courses

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The new major requirements are:

Math 127, or 131, or Econ 151  
Math 128, or 132, or Econ 152  
Res-Econ 212, or Stats 240, or Stats 501, or Stats 515
Econ 103 Introduction to Microeconomics (ResEc 102)
Econ 104 Introduction to Macroeconomics
Econ 203 Intermediate Microeconomics (ResEc 202)
Econ 204 Intermediate Macroeconomics
Econ 397 W Junior Year Writing
Integrative Experience
4 upper-level economics courses, 3 credits each, 300 or higher

Option A: 2 additional upper level economics courses, 3 credits each, 300 or higher
Option B: Complete one of the following collateral field options:
• Any minor or certificate program or additional major
• Any combination of five courses in Isenberg School of Management, 3 credits each, numbered 200 or higher
• A group of five courses, 3 credits each, numbered 300 or higher, chosen by the student and approved by the Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Economics prior to the student enrolling in the courses

In addition, students must complete an international/intercultural education requirement through one of the following methods:

1. International/Intercultural Courses: Any three courses, 3 credits each, from the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences list of international/intercultural courses.
2. Language Courses: 9 credits of a language.
3. Combination of Language & International/Intercultural Courses: A combination of 2 courses, 3 credits each, of a language and 1 international/intercultural course, 3 credits.
4. Certificate Programs: Complete one of these certificate programs that have an international or multi-cultural emphasis.
   • African Studies
   • Asian and Asian American Studies
   • International Agricultural Studies
   • International Relations
   • International Scholars Program
   • Interpreter Studies
   • Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies
   • Middle-Eastern Studies
   • Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
5. Departmentally Approved Study Abroad: Complete an IPO-approved study abroad program that transferred at least 9 credits to UMass.
6. At least one course taken to fulfill the major's international/intercultural requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided a rationale for transforming international and intercultural education in the B.A. majors from the college-level Global Education Requirement to departmental requirements. Please see document Rationale for Transformation of International & Intercultural Education in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences (attached) for this overall rationale.

Within this framework, the Economics major has revised our requirements to add courses to the department's major requirements that both expose and educate students to different cultures and cultural perspectives.
Academic Requirements Review

Requirement: V. In addition to the Gen Ed, Diversity, and College requirements, you must complete the following Major requirements: (rg61)
Rule: Economics plan requirements (r92)
Line: **Only Res-Econ 202 or Econ 203 in r92/ln60**
Line: **No Internal Transfer Credit**
Recall: ITC
Line: **No pass/fails allowed in the major. Option A and Option B require a C average.**
Recall: GUS
Recall: GUS
Recall: CAT
Line: **Only one Res-Econ course may be counted toward upper-level course requirements.**
Recall: GUS
Recall: GUS
Line: 1. Take Econ 103 or Res-Econ 102. (r92,ln20)
Line: 2. Take Econ 104. (r92,ln25)
Line: 3. Take one Introductory Calculus/ Math Modeling course. (r92, ln30)
Line: 4. Take one Second Level Calculus Course/Math Modeling course. (r92,ln40)
Line: 5. Take one Statistics course. (r92,ln50)
Line: 6. Intermediate Theory Courses: Take Economics 203 or 203H and 204 or 204H. [You may take Res-Econ 202 in place of Econ 203.] (r92,ln60)
Line: 7a. Junior Year Writing: Take Econ 383 and 400 concurrently. (r92,ln70)
Line: 7b. Junior Year Writing: Take any upper-level Economics course designated with W in the course number, such as Econ 362W. (r92,ln80)
Line: 8. Take four 3-unit upper-level Economics courses. [Only one Res-Econ course can be applied to this requirement. Credit cannot be received for both Res-Econ 312 and Econ 452.] (r92,ln90)
Rule: Option A (r93)
Line: **No Internal Transfer**
Recall: ITC
Line: Take two 3-unit Upper-level Economics Courses numbered 300 and above. (r93,ln10)
Recall: USE
Recall: ITC
Rule: Option B (r94)
Line: **No Internal Transfer**
Recall: ITC
Line: Completion of five courses (15 units) in a collateral field approved by an advisor. (r94,ln10)
Recall: ITC
Rule: **Additional Economics Courses (r10257)
Line: Other Courses
Recall: USD
Recall: ITC
Rule: ***Courses Not used for Degree/Major/Minor Requirements**(r10258)
Recall: PAS
Recall: USD
Recall: ITC

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This proposal does not require additional resources within SBS or the Economics major, although the college and department continue to point out the unusually high student to faculty ratios within SBS and call for faculty hiring to address this imbalance. Under the proposed curriculum changes, we expect some
increases in demand for courses within SBS, particularly those that are identified as fulfilling international/intercultural requirements within the department. This additional demand has already been considered by us in approving this major change proposal.

(Please refer to Proposal #2751 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for the Track Changes and the Rationale for Transformation of International and Intercultural Education in CSBS.)