

Executive Committee
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Report to Riverside Division
March 21, 2019

To be adopted:

Proposed changes to the Economics Major Change Criteria

PRESENT:

Major Requirements

The Economics Department offers B.A. degrees in Economics, Business Economics, Economics/Administrative Studies, and Economics/Law and Society.

PROPOSED:

Major Requirements

The Economics Department offers B.A. degrees in Economics, Business Economics, Economics/Administrative Studies, and Economics/Law and Society.

Change of Major Criteria for ECON and BSEC:

Students must be in good academic standing at the time the Change of Major Petition is filed. AP/IB units are excluded from the maximum unit calculation. All courses listed below must be completed with grades of C- or better.

0 – 45 earned units:

MATH 006A or higher

45 – 89 earned units:

ECON 002 or ECON 003 and MATH 006B or MATH 005 or higher

90+ earned units:

ECON 002, ECON 003, and MATH 009A or equivalent

Change of Major Criteria for ECAT:

Students must be in good academic standing at the time the Change of Major Petition is filed. AP/IB units are excluded from the maximum unit calculation.

0 – 45 earned units:

MATH 006A or higher with a grade of C- or better

45 – 89 earned units:

ECON 002 or ECON 003 and MATH 006B or MATH 005 or higher with grades of C- or better

90+ earned units:

ECON 002 and ECON 003 with grades of C- or better, and MATH 009A or equivalent

Change of Major Criteria for ECLW:

Students must be in good academic standing at the time the Change of Major Petition is filed.

ECON 002 and ECON 003 with grades of C- or better, MATH 009A or equivalent, and LWSO 100 with a grade of “C” or better

Justification:

Effective this academic year (2018-2019), incoming transfer students requesting admission into the Economics Department are required to have already successfully completed a course equivalent to UCR’s MATH 009A, which is the first quarter of differential calculus. The justification for implementing this admission criteria was that it helps to ensure transfer students are more adequately prepared to take upper division economics courses starting in their first quarter at UCR. This also puts transfer students admitted into the Economics Department on a path more likely to allow them to complete their degree requirements within two years.

The implementation of this criteria, however, has created an incongruity that the Department intends to address with establishing change of major criteria for continuing students. Since the Department currently has no change of major criteria, continuing students at the same point in their education as prospective transfer students can technically change their major into our department without needing to meet the same criteria as transfer students. Considering that the justifications for establishing transfer admission criteria (adequate academic preparation and timely completion of degree) are just as relevant to continuing students, the department feels it would make sense to eliminate this incongruity. Implementing change of major criteria will also provide more directional structure for freshman and sophomore students considering a major change into the Economics Department. A student interested in Economics whose performance in math courses shows that they may be better off in a non-math-based major can be redirected earlier in their academic career towards other areas of study, increasing the chances that they will graduate in a timely fashion with a degree they had some say in choosing.

On a final note, the campus began a huge campaign in 2014 called “Finish in Four,” promoting the “ways” and “reasons” for students to finish their degree in four years. In addition to this, all UC campuses were asked by UCOP to create “Three-Year Pathways to Graduation.” These campaigns highlight the focus the entire UC system has placed on improving graduation rates. Establishing change of major criteria will show the Economics Department is taking active measures to assist in achieving the goals of UCR and the UC System.

Approvals:

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Economics:	January 18, 2019
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:	March 6, 2019
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:	April 10, 2019