Expected Outcomes: Use of Mathematical Methods

Students should be able to use mathematical methods to address economic and business problems.

Related typical general education outcomes:

5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems

Assessment methods

Method: Application of Math to Economic and Business

In AGEC 5030, students are asked to use mathematical methods to solve a number of economic and business problems in class discussions, assignments and exams. In Spring 2012 in AGEC 5030 two questions on the final used mathematical methods, namely algebra and calculus, to address economic and business problems. For the assessment, we looked at the number of students who earned at least 80% of the points and the number of students who passed (at least 60% of the points) the mandatory questions.

Findings:

In the two algebra/calculus based questions on the final exam, only seven out 27 undergraduate students (29.93%) earned a score of 80% or better. Sixteen out of 27 undergraduate students (59.26%) earned a passing grade of 60% or greater.

How did you use findings for improvement?

In Spring 2013 in AGEC 5030, the instructor will dedicate the first two weeks of the course to a math assessment and instruction. More mathematical problems will also be infused into AGEC 5010, which many students take concurrently with AGEC 5030. Hopefully both courses will support each other in the development of mathematical methods and the application to economic and business problems.

Additional comments:

None