

Rationale for Changes to the Economics Minor

The two changes are to (1) allow people to choose between Intermediate Micro, Macro, and Econometrics as opposed to having to take micro; and (2) to broaden the requirements for the 2 extra courses to allow 300-level and higher courses that do not have 200 or 201 as a prerequisite to count toward the minor.

Rationale for Change 1: Economics can be very broadly divided into 3 M's: Microeconomics; Macroeconomics and (Econo)Metrics. The old requirements privileged microeconomics relative to macroeconomics and econometrics. While more students take second courses in microeconomics than in the macroeconomics or econometrics, which is presumably why it has been privileged, there is no substantive reason why it should be privileged. The change will allow students to choose the courses that best suit their interests and programs.

Rationale for Change 2: In recent years, we have developed upper-division courses that do not have any prerequisites. Most notable among these is Economics 348, Ethics and Social Responsibility. We are now in the odd situation of having courses that are equally rigorous, some of which qualify for our minor and some of which do not. The relevant criteria should be the level of rigor, not the presence of prerequisites. At the time that the original language was developed, this distinction was not as salient as it is today.