

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW (CPR)
FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: ECONOMICS
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS
January 2026

Executive Summary of the Cyclical Program Review of the Department of Economics Programs

In accordance with the University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external review and the internal responses of the undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of Economics.

In addition to identifying the strengths of the programs, together with opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, the report prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation and sets out a plan (including the agent(s) responsible for addressing the recommendations and deadline dates) for follow-through. Timelines for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations are built into the process, with areas reporting mid-cycle on their progress to the Senate Program Development Committee, or earlier where there are significant concerns requiring urgent follow-up.

The Department of Economics 2021-2022 Self-Study submitted to the Office of Quality Assurance on January 28, 2025, included 1) a summary of recommendations and actions from the last review; 2) descriptions and an analysis of the programs, their learning outcomes, curriculum structure, and student experience; 3) information on enrolments as well as financial, physical, and human resources; and 4) the program data including the standard data package provided by the Office of Quality Assurance. Included in the appendices to the Self-Study were faculty member CVs, and course descriptions.

The Department of Economics programs were reviewed by Dr. Byron Lew (Department of Economics, Trent University), Dr. Valentina Galvani (Department of Economics, University of Alberta) and Dr. Ofelia Jianu (Department of Mechanical, Automotive, and Materials Engineering, University of Windsor). In addition to assessing the Self-Study, the Review Team conducted a two-day virtual site visit on March 17-18, 2025, which included meetings with faculty, students, administrative staff, Departmental Committees, the academic librarian, the Associate Vice-President, Academic, the Dean of Science, and the Head of the Department of Economics.

In their report (April 13, 2025), the Review Team confirmed that the undergraduate and graduate programs meet the IQAP evaluation criteria and are aligned with the University's mission, vision, and strategic plan. Admissions requirements, program requirements, and learning outcomes are clear, appropriate, and aligned with degree-level expectations. The Review Team noted that the programs are delivered by research-intensive faculty, noting that the "research output of the faculty members indicates that they are true experts in their respective fields". They did, however, raise some concerns around graduate supervisory workload distribution. Students reported feeling supported, with graduate students specifically expressing appreciation for how the programs are constructed and delivered.

Overall, the Review Team noted that both the undergraduate and graduate programs provide excellent learning opportunities, with the Review Team noting that undergraduate students "receive a superlative education in Economics and its applications" and commending the provision of "hands-on learning in otherwise theoretical courses" to graduate students. However, the Review Team did note that the undergraduate programs are too small to be sustainable and offered suggestions to make them more attractive to students. Specifically, the Reviewers noted that both the graduate and undergraduate programs are heavy in theoretical content and suggested some streamlining of the econometrics theoretical requirements and expansion of applied or hands-on course learning. This, along with revisions to better pace quantitative requirements, might help with recruitment and retention of undergraduate students, and might also enable both undergraduate and graduate students to better visualize employment prospects.

The Head of the Department of Economics and the Dean of the Faculty of Science submitted their responses to the External Reviewers' Report (August 28, 2025 and October 6, 2025, respectively), addressing the recommendations, identifying follow-up actions, and providing clarification or corrections, as appropriate. The Senate Program Development Committee (PDC) Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan (January 2026) considered all the above documentation. The Executive Summary and Implementation Plan, along with any response from the area on the final recommendations, were submitted to Senate in February 2026.

Final Recommendations and Implementation Plan (in priority order)

Final recommendations were arrived at by the Program Development Committee, following a review and assessment of the External Reviewers report and the response from the Dean of the Faculty

Recommendation 1: That the Department embark on a curriculum review and redesign of its undergraduate programs, with a view to:

- a) altering the requirements of the BA in Economics and the corresponding Honours BA programs to allow students to switch between programs at the end of the second year with minimal friction. [ER Recommendation P1]
- b) removing the requirements for Advanced Microeconomics II and Advanced Macroeconomics II from the Honours BSc programs. [ER Recommendation P2]
- c) producing program charts for all programs. [ER Recommendation P4]

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2027

Recommendation 2: That the Department embark on a curriculum review and redesign of its graduate programs, with a view to:

- a) minimizing the theoretical component of the Econometrics graduate sequence and expanding hands-on experience in economic data analysis. [ER Recommendation P5]
- b) consolidating the core courses of the MAEP and MA programs.
- c) maximizing cross-listing of MAEP and MA courses and cross-career courses (graduate-undergraduate courses) to enhance the sustainability of the graduate and undergraduate programs. [ER Recommendation P6]

[PDC reminds the Department that the number of cross-career courses cannot exceed one-third of the graduate student's program.]

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2027

Recommendation 3: That the Department report on how it is assigning instructors to ECON-1000 and ECON-1010, keeping EDI considerations in mind, and on what kinds of supports are provided to assist them in ensuring teaching success in large classes. [ER Recommendation P4]

Agents: Head

Completion by: Fall 2027

Recommendation 4: That the Department report on activities and initiatives to support students' success in large classes and overall.

Agents: Head, Department Council

Completion by: Fall 2027

Recommendation 5: That the Department reflect on assessment approaches and report on how it is engaging in discussions about assessments, particularly around the use of generative AI and other challenges relating to academic integrity. [ER Recommendation P7]

Agents: Head, Institutional Advisor on Generative AI, Centre for Teaching and Learning

Completion by: Fall 2027

Recommendation 6: That the Department report on efforts to encourage broad participation in supervision and to monitor workload distribution periodically. [ER Recommendation P8]

Agents: Head, Dean of Science

Completion by: Fall 2027

Recommendation 7: That the Department make a case to the Dean of the Faculty for a course release for the Directors of the graduate programs (one for the MA and one for the MAEP). [ER Recommendation R1]

Agents: Head

Completion by: Fall 2027