

UC 11660125

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

* see UC 11763125
for revised catalog
language.
RECEIVED JAN 02 2012

TO: CLASS UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE
FROM: RUXANDRA BOUL, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR/ECONOMICS
SUBJECT: MAJOR DECLARATION/CATALOG CHANGES
DATE: 12/7/2011

The Department of Economics would like to change the requirements for declaring a major in economics. Changes in major declaration requirements and rules in Bauer College of Business and UScholars have substantially increased the number of students declaring economics as their major (355 in fall 2010 to 518 in fall 2011). Our academic advisor suspects that some of these students do not actually intend to major in economics and are simply hoping to increase their GPAs in order to move to the business school. In fact, some of them do not enroll in any economics courses after declaring their major. Thus, they are not progressing towards graduation in their chosen major. This sparked departmental discussion about our major declaration rules that has led to the following proposed changes.

The study of economics requires strong quantitative skills and success in advanced courses requires a strong foundation in economic theory. We want to make sure that students choosing to major in economics have acquired sufficient skills in these areas. We believe this will improve student performance in advanced courses and assist students in making the right decision in choosing their major. Therefore, we would like to require that all students that have completed 30 or more hours and want to declare their major in Economics enroll in one of the following courses: ECON 2304 Principles of Microeconomics, ECON 2305 Principles of Macroeconomics, ECON 3332 Intermediate Microeconomics or ECON 3334 Intermediate Macroeconomics. These courses contain the fundamental economic theory and quantitative training that is so important to successful advanced study. Even though this is likely to increase enrollment pressure in the intermediate courses (we are already at capacity), we think it is important for student progress towards graduation and will also aid students in making certain the major is a good fit for them.

Approved by CLASS
Undergraduate Studies Committee

Dr. Sarah Fishman
Date 12/7/11

Catalog Language: (add the sentence in red italics):

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/colleges/las/majors/economics/index.php>)

Economics Major

A student who has completed 30 or more hours must enroll in one of the following courses: ECON 2304 Principles of Microeconomics, ECON 2305 Principles of Macroeconomics, ECON 3332 Intermediate Microeconomics or ECON 3334 Intermediate Macroeconomics, in order to be able to petition the Department of Economics to declare a major in Economics. Students must earn a cumulative minimum 2.00 grade point average in all courses in the major (required or elective) attempted at this university.

Students who choose to major in economics must also meet the university core requirements and the college core requirements for a Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.

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