

UCLA

Student Learning Outcomes for the B.A. in Economics

Critical Thinking

Students are expected to be able to:

- apply economic analyses to their everyday lives and see economics in real world situations.
- apply the materials learned in our program to policy relevant issues and be able to understand current events and to assess the likely impact of specific policies put forth by various government entities.
- evaluate the role played by assumptions in arguments made for and against economic and policy issues.

Quantitative Reasoning

Students are expected to:

- use quantitative evidence along with the economic models to assess the validity of various economic and policy relevant arguments.
- understand statistical methodology and interpret statistical evidence.
- use data to construct quantitative economics arguments and to understand the statistical problems associated with interpreting the results.
- understand the role of sample selection/endogeneity in affecting results and how one might best correct for these issues.

Communication Skills

Students are expected to be able to:

- formulate written arguments that state assumptions and hypotheses and evaluate its pros and cons based on the evidence.
- present a carefully reasoned economic argument orally and respond to questions pertaining to their argument.
- present a carefully reasoned economic argument by means of graphs, figures, and charts, and potentially through the use of software such as PowerPoint or similar products.

Learning in Practice

Students are expected to:

- possess a working knowledge of information databases and to know how to use the web to assist in the gathering of reliable information.
- know how to locate and use primary data sources (e.g., Current Population Surveys, Census, American Community Surveys).
- use their knowledge to understand and evaluate current economic events and new economic ideas.