

**Eastern Illinois University
Department of Economics**

**Proposal to Change the Mission Statement
of the Master of Arts in Economics**

The mission statement of the graduate program in the Department of Economics does not fully represent the current actual mission of the program. Emphasis has now shifted to providing rigorous training in applied economics from the earlier focus on either Ph.D. preparation or on historical or philosophical roots of the discipline. The structure of the graduate course offerings has evolved over time as well. This has caused a misalignment of our enrollment and assessment goals with the way our mission appears in the Graduate Catalog.

In keeping with our goals for enrollment and assessment, and the need to clarify the areas of our strength, the Department of Economics requests that the mission statement of the M.A. program in Economics be changed as follows:

Current mission statement:

“The program’s objectives are to prepare students for doctoral study and to provide qualified economists to staff industry and governmental positions. Elective courses in the graduate program accommodate students with an interest in areas of economics such as international economics, economic development, theory, labor, monetary policy and banking, government and business, and history of thought.”

Proposed mission statement (with further elucidation):

“The program’s objectives are to prepare students to become leaders in contemporary business, government, and academia by offering excellent education in applied economics. We accomplish our objectives by offering flexible curriculum centered on analytical rigor, efficient quantitative methods, and effective communication skills.”

To train students in modern tools of analysis, we offer basic theory courses in micro and macroeconomics, a foundation course in econometrics and an applied econometrics course. We also emphasize Research Methods as a course that exposes students to research in different areas within economics and trains them in professional writing and oral presentation.

In addition, our students choose from a menu of elective courses in a variety of fields, such as international trade and finance, environmental and human

resources, development economics, labor economics and industrial organization. Two areas of concentration for more in-depth knowledge are also currently available: Applied Microeconomics and Global Economy. Each track requires students to complete three separate courses.

Effective: Immediately

Date Approved:

Graduate Program Committee, Department of Economics: January 19, 2010

Department of Economics: February 12, 2010

College of Sciences Curriculum Committee: April 9, 2010

Council on Graduate Studies: _____