

Department of Economics

Proposal to Include ECN 5451: Seminar in Public Finance in the Applied Microeconomics Track

Master of Arts program in the Department of Economics currently has two areas of concentration: Applied Microeconomics and Global Economy. Students are required to complete three of the courses within a given track to be certified as having specialized in that track. The courses listed under each concentration are as follows:

Applied Microeconomics:

1. ECN 4751: Managerial Economics
2. ECN 5411: Seminar in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
3. ECN 5433: Applied Econometrics
4. ECN 5480: Seminar in Industrial Organization
5. ECN 5491: Seminar in Labor Economics
6. ECN 5493: Economics of Human Resources

Global Economy:

1. ECN 4861: International Problems
2. ECN 4875: Area Studies
3. ECN 5433: Applied Econometrics
4. ECN 5461: Seminar in International Economics
5. ECN 5471: Seminar in Economic Development

If a student completes any three of the courses in either track, the transcript for the student will record the name of the concentration. ECN 5433 appears under both the concentrations. However, the completion of both the tracks requires that the student take six separate courses, three from each with ECN 5433 counted only once.

This new proposal is the result of a decision by the M.A. Economics program to seek approval for adding another existing course to the Applied Microeconomics track. This course is ECN 5451: Seminar in Public Finance. ECN 5451 has been taught several times by Dr. Minh Dao, an economics graduate faculty, since 2011. Following current practice in most Economics departments around the country, Dr. Dao teaches the course primarily using tools of microeconomic theory to issues related to the government tax and expenditure policies, which are at the core of public finance. The Economics graduate program thinks that students taking this course, but not otherwise fulfilling the requirements of the Applied Micro track, are currently treated unfairly. The inclusion of ECN 5451 under Applied Micro will rectify the situation.

Passed by Graduate Program Committee: 17 February 2015

Passed by Department of Economics: 5 March 2015

Passed by COS Curriculum Committee: April 3, 2015

Passed by Council on Graduate Studies: