

Juliette/Memo;Dept.L2

SUBJECT: Course Sequence Restrictions, Economics

TO: Dr. Ron Juliette, Chairperson
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

FROM: Donald A. Walker, Chairperson
Department of Economics



DATE: April 19, 1990

The Department of Economics would like to propose the following sequence restriction: that enrollment in EC101 Basic Economics be restricted to students who have not received credit for another economics course and who are not taking another economics course concurrently.

Here is the rationale for this proposed restriction. First, EC101 should not be taken by someone who has had, or is taking, either EC121 Principles of Economics I or EC122 Principles of Economics II because EC101 is a condensation of the subject matter of those two courses. A student who took EC101 after or during EC121 or EC122 would be repeating an abbreviated version of the same subject matter. Second, EC101 deals with concepts that are assumed to be known by the student in almost all of the upper level economics courses we are currently offering. The upper-level courses develop those concepts in greater detail and with more sophistication, so a student who took EC101 after an upper-level course would to a considerable extent be repeating, on a more elementary level, material that he or she has already learned. In general, the student would not profit intellectually by taking EC101 after taking EC121 or EC122 or an upper-level economics course.

Exceptions can be made to allow students to take EC101 after or concurrently with other economics courses in certain circumstances. This could be arranged, for example, if a student wants to take EC101 after an acceptable upper level course which is the only one he or she intends to take during his or her undergraduate education. EC241 Contemporary Economic Issues might be acceptable in that connection because it is not assumed that the students in that course have taken EC121 and EC122.