

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4419S
Date of Senate Approval 04/04/19

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 37 (ECON): Reconfigure the undergraduate research experience of
Economics majors by deleting ECON 380 and adding the
content to a 4-credit ECON 450;
Revise the description of ECON 480**

Effective Date: Fall 2019

1. Delete: On page 123, the entry for **ECON 380:**

380 Approaches to Research in Economics (1)

The first of two classes in the senior capstone experience, this course presents an overview of alternative approaches to the conduct of research in economics. The student will become familiar with the Undergraduate Research Program at UNC Asheville by developing a proposal for research to be conducted in ECON 480 under the guidance of a member of the Economics faculty who will serve as a mentor. ECON 380 must be taken the semester prior to enrolling in ECON 480. Prerequisite: Eighteen hours in Economics. Fall and Spring.

2. Delete: On page 123, the entry for **ECON 450:**

450 Seminar in Economics (3)

A critical examination of primary works that have figured in the development of economic theory and policy. May be taken once or repeated with variable content for a total of 6 hours. Prerequisite: ECON 301 or 302. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 123, in place of deleted entry:

450 Seminar in Economics (4)

An exploration of topics that broaden the scope and deepen the foundation of students' knowledge of economics. Students will gain in-depth knowledge of the theory, literature, and methods in an important subfield of economics. Each student will develop a proposal for research in this subfield, which can be implemented in ECON 480. This course will serve as the first of two courses in the senior capstone experience. May be repeated for credit as content varies. ECON 450 must be taken the semester before enrolling in ECON 480. Prerequisite: ECON 301 or 302 depending on the topic. Pre- or corequisite: ECON 365. Fall and Spring.

3. Delete: On page 123, the entry for **ECON 480:**

480 Senior Research in Economics (3)

The final course in the senior capstone experience in which the student conducts research in economics on a subject of the student's personal interest, under the supervision of a mentor from the Economics faculty. The methods, concepts and approaches employed will typically draw upon the student's major courses, including the successful completion of ECON 380. ECON 480 should be taken in a student's final semester. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. Prerequisite: C or better in ECON 380. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 123, in place of the deleted entry for **ECON 480:**

480 Senior Research in Economics (3)

The final course in the senior capstone experience, in which the student conducts and presents research described in the proposal developed in ECON 450. Must be taken with the professor of ECON 450. An IP grade may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor. Prerequisite: C or better in ECON 450. Fall and Spring.

Impact Statement: ECON 380, ECON 450, and ECON 480 are required courses in the Major in Economics and Economics with Teacher Licensure. Given the changes indicated above, the capstone courses in the major will move from 380 (1), 450 (3), and 480 (3), for a total of 7 credits, to 450 (4) and 480 (3), for a total of 7 credits. Thus, the number of credits required for the major will be unchanged.

Consistent with past offering patterns, two sections of ECON 450 will be taught in the fall semester with their associated sections (same instructor) of ECON 480 taught in the spring semester, and one section of ECON 450 will be taught in the spring semester with its associated section (same instructor) of ECON 480 in the subsequent fall semester. None of these courses are required or recommended by other majors or programs.

Rationale: Over the last decade the department has reflected continually upon the best way for students and faculty to work together to create a meaningful research experience for all concerned. As a result of this reflection, it was decided to transform its undergraduate research experience from three courses—ECON 380 (1), 450 (3), and 480 (3)—into two courses—ECON 450 (4) and 480 (3). By incorporating the content of 380 (1) and 450 (3) into a 4-credit 450, students will be able to explore research methods—380—in the context of a specific content area—450, thereby enabling them to move directly into the work they will undertake in 480, Senior Research in Economics. Since both 450 (4) and 480 (3) will be taught by the same instructor, this will benefit instructors, too.