

Department of Economics
Director of Undergraduate Studies Report, April 2006
Submitted by Mary Hansen

As requested by the strategic planning subcommittee on undergraduate studies, I have prepared reports on trends in majors and course enrollments. The source for these reports is the Eagledata Warehouse, accessed between March 27 and March 29, 2006. Minor discrepancies between tables represent updates made to student records made over this time period. This report will be updated and amended annually.

Trend in Majors

Good news! Table 1 shows that the number of majors—measured by head and as a percentage of CAS degree seekers—is up. The current total number of declared Economics majors, including double majors, is 81. In Spring 2005 there were 57 declared majors.

The General Track is more popular with students whose only major is Economics. Double-majors are equally likely to choose the International Track.

There are currently 19 students pursuing a BS in Economics. About one-third of students whose only major is Economics choose the BS program, about one-fifth of double majors choose the BS.

The increase in majors derives mainly from resurgence in double majors, especially among students also majoring in International Studies. Smaller increases in double majors are evident among students in CLEG, Political Science and Business Administration majors.

There are 45 students who list Economics as an intended major, up 10 from last Spring. The percentage of students with majors or intended Economics majors has been rising as a percent of degree-seekers in CAS, from about 6 percent in Spring 2003 and 2004, to just over eight percent now.

The number of declared majors now is at the same level as it was in 1999. The number of declared majors dropped off from 80 to 53 between 1999 and 2001; since 2001 the number of majors has vacillated by as much as 10 percent from year to year. Currently the number of undergraduate students with primary affiliation (either declared majors or intended) in Economics (82) is comparable to the number of students with primary affiliation in Chemistry (76) and Studio Art (93); see table 2. Economics has more students with secondary affiliation (49) than any other department except Language/Foreign Study (71).

There are currently 38 students with Minors in Economics. Historical data on minors are not available on Eagledata.

Women represent 41 percent of all students who have an affiliation (major or minor) with the Economics Department. Nationally, about 34 percent of undergraduate economics degrees are earned by women (AEA Universal Academic Questionnaire, http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/UAQ/UAQRES_2005.pdf).

Trends in Enrollments in Intermediate Theory Courses

An increase in majors necessarily increases enrollments in Intermediate Micro and Macro. The increase is somewhat larger for Macro in fall terms and for Micro in Spring Terms. Both Intermediate Micro and Macro this term have enrollments that surpass any term since 1999.

Question: Why do we still offer more sections of Micro in the spring and more of Macro in the fall? Since students are more likely to take 100-200 in sequence in fall-spring, won't we be serving potential majors better if we offer more seats for 300 in the following fall? Why risk the student's getting distracted by another major and/or closed out of the next logical class?

Trends in Principles Enrollments

Principles of Macro enrollments have fallen by more than 100 students since its peak at almost 800 in Fall 2002. Spring Macro enrollments had been steady, but decreased slightly in Spring 2006. Total Principles of Micro enrollments have been steady, with slight decreases in fall terms offset by slight increases in spring terms.

Comment/Question: It is curious that our majors are increasing even while the number of students taking the first course in the department is decreasing. What might account for this? How many majors might we have if Principles of Macro enrollments had not fallen off?

Upper Level Course Enrollments

Total enrollment in upper level courses (3xx and 480) during the academic year (Fall-Spring) has increased to the highest level since the 1999-2000 AY. High enrollments in 3xx courses represent (1) the utilization of World Regions and Development and International Economics courses by students to fulfill requirements of degrees outside Economics and (2) the increase in majors.

Enrollment per upper-level section averages 26.8 students, which is more than five more students per section than during AY 1999-2000.

Implications

The upwards trend in majors, combined with the trend in the number of intended majors, indicates that we should be prepared to accommodate more students in intermediate theory, 3xx classes, and the research seminar.

Our recent enhancement to the undergraduate development curriculum and our successful expansion of the Econ 358 (World Regions) courses will help to increase the attractiveness of an Economics double major among students in SIS.

To continue to attract students from CLEG, Political Science, and Business Administration, we should continue to offer a variety of applied micro/policy 3xx courses. Recent enrollments have been strong in Political Economy (ECON-317) and Economic

History (ECON-318 and ECON-319), Public Economics (ECON-341), Labor Econ (ECON-373) and Environmental Policy (ECON-379), which supports the idea that there is interest in applied micro.

We do not have many students who double major in anthropology, history, psychology. We should discuss ways of attracting students whose interests lie along the lines of social science generally. We are also short on math/statistics and philosophy double majors.

Table 1: Economics Majors Report April 2006

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Majoring in Econ Only								
BA: Track not Specified	0	3	2	3	1	0	0	2
BA: General	16	15	19	19	21	15	10	18
BA: International	5	5	7	8	7	9	10	10
BS	10	6	7	0	0	0	0	0
Total	31	29	35	30	29	24	20	30
Double Majors								
BA: Track not Specified	6	6	3	7	4	1	6	5
BA: General	18	1	15	23	23	15	15	17
BA: International	17	7	7	14	12	13	17	28
BS	9	8	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total Double Majors	50	28	27	44	39	29	38	50
Programs with Significant Numbers of Double Majors								
CLEG	4	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
INST	26	12	11	28	27	23	27	34
POLS	9	6	4	1	1	3	2	7
BADM	6	8	2	1	1	0	5	4
Total Majors	81	57	62	74	68	53	58	80
Intended Majors	45	35	30	20	19	24	18	18
(Majors+Intended) as % of CAS degree-seekers	8.11	7.36	5.99	6.01	5.69	5.12	5.33	6.88

Table 2: Current Declared and Intended Majors in CAS

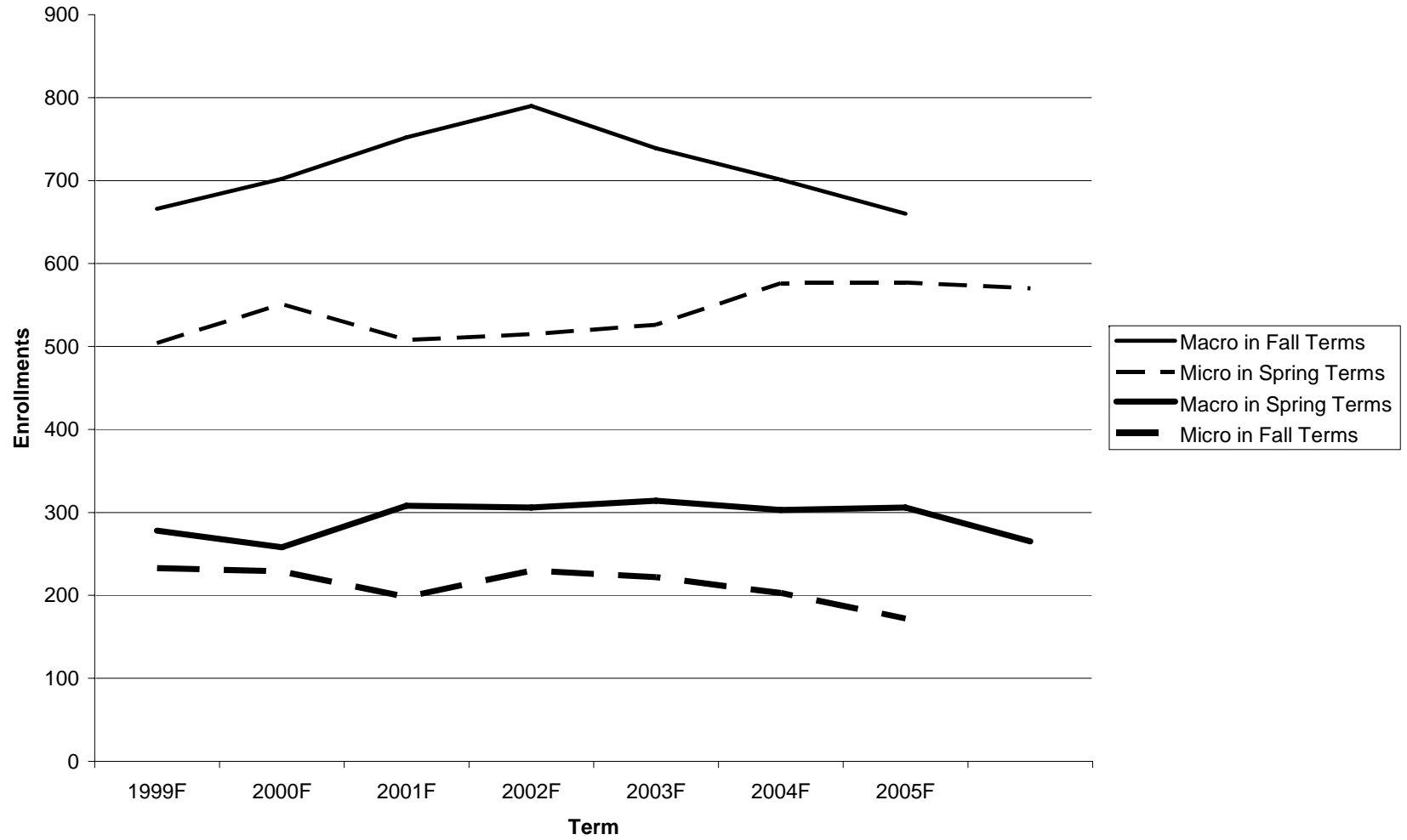
<i>Department</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>
Computer Science and Info Syst	0	10
Jewish Studies	5	0
Women's / Gender Studies Prog	9	6
American Studies	16	3
Math / Statistics	24	2
Health / Fitness	27	1
Sociology	38	7
Education	43	14
Anthropology	53	4
Philosophy / Religion	54	30
Performing Arts	69	7
Comp Sci, Audio Tech / Physics	71	2
Chemistry	76	0
Economics	82	49
Art	93	2
Language / Foreign Study	96	71
Literature	98	12
Biology	116	44
History	153	20
Psychology	194	21
CAS Dean's Office (undeclared)	323	1

Table 3: Enrollments in Upper Level Courses

		<i>Scheduled</i>	<i>SP06</i>	<i>F05</i>	<i>SU05</i>	<i>SP05</i>	<i>F04</i>	<i>SU04</i>	<i>SP04</i>	<i>F03</i>	<i>SU03</i>	<i>SP03</i>	<i>F02</i>	<i>SU02</i>	<i>SP02</i>	<i>F01</i>	<i>SP01</i>	<i>F00</i>	<i>SP00</i>	<i>F99</i>
317	Political Economy	Fall		32	9		24			34			31			35	C	1	1	11
318	Economic History	Irregular	31			24		14	21			34			27		28			21
319	United States Economic History	Irregular		28														16		
320	History of Economic Ideas	Irregular				1											C			
322	Introduction to Econometrics	Spring	25			28			23			25			14		9			22
322	Money, Banking, and Finance in the Global Economy	Spring		C													C	10	16	12
325	Social Choice and Economic Justice	Irregular							C			C			19		24			16
341	Public Economics	Fall	33	C			32			29			30			23	25			16
346	Competition, Regulation, and Business Strategies	Fall		24			27			23			11			9		20		10
351	Comparative Economic Systems	Spring																12	C	
352	Economic Transformation of Central/Eastern Europe	In Prague																		
358	Europe and EU	Every Term	34			29			23			26			28					
358	S and SE Asia					29						23								
358	North America					29														
358	Africa			36			34			36			23		23	23	20			19
358	Arab			28					21		18									
358	World Regions NOS																			
361	Economic Development	Fall and Spring	35	27		25	26		25	35		34	28		26	34	32	35	35	33
370	International Economics	Every Term	32	37	7	25	54	15	23	55	8	31	41	17	54	36	58	36	50	28
371	International Economics: Trade	Spring	18			17			26			20			24		26			30
372	International Economics: Finance	Fall		28			7			16			20			29		24		34
373	Labor Economics	Irregular	16			10							9			10				7
374	Gender Roles in the Economy	Irregular											20			23		30		21
379	Economics of Environmental Policy	Spring	31			24		C	27			27			22		19			19

396	Successful LDCs																			
			15			14														
396	Social Policy					11														
396	Comparative Social Policy								17			17								
396	Applied Econometrics																			
			11																	
396	Alternative Theories								8											
396	Heterodox											9		9						
396	Modern Alternatives																		29	
396	Social Policy Dev. Cos.															11			28	
396	Policy Analysis Emrging								12			15		13						
396	Math Econ																		19	
396	Country Analysis																		20	
396	Globalization																			
																			17	
396	Dev. Latin America																			
																			24	
480	Research Seminar	Spring																		
				15		14			11										C	
<i>Upper Level Total Enrollments</i>			270	266	16	266	218	37	218	239	35	252	213	26	250	222	264	240	252	218
Total for Academic Year (excluding SU)			536			484			457			465			472		504		470	
Average enrollment per section			26.8			23			25.4			24.5			24.8		22.9		21.4	

Principles Enrollments



Intermediate Enrollments

