# Economics Flexible Pre-Major Interim Report

Prepared by
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On Behalf of the
Economics Articulation Committee
May 2012

#### Overview of Progress on the Project

Following the Flexible Pre-Major (FPM) analysis by the Economics Articulation Committee, a number of outstanding issues suggested that a FPM might not be possible. For that reason, a multi-step process was proposed to determine the feasibility of implementing an Economics FPM.

However, several intervening events resulted in many of those steps not being required. Communications with the institutions offering a Bachelor of Arts degree with an Economics major, combined with occasional meetings of the FPM committee, resulted in the Flexible Pre-Major being approved by the Economics Articulation Committee at its annual meeting in May 2012. The process has now moved into the sign-off phase.

The contract deliverables in the first part of the FPM implementation project, as outlined in the project proposal, are presented below, along with a description of how each was addressed.

Contract: Formalize specific sub-committees to deal with specific areas; These committees were not formed. The issue of which courses were acceptable as Post-Principles courses were resolved during general discussions.

Contract: Initiate a sub-committee to examine Calculus transferability. A committee was not required to achieve agreement on the calculus courses. The FPM agreement allows any first calculus course to meet the calculus requirements for the FPM.

Contract: Develop a transfer grid for Statistics. This issue of statistics transferability was discussed within the FPM subcommittee. It was agreed that any first statistics course would meet the statistics requirement for the FPM.

**Contract:** Convene a meeting of representatives from all institutions with an Economics major in a Bachelor of Arts program.

This meeting was held in the BCCAT boardroom prior to the annual Economics Articulation meeting. The representatives voted unanimously to implement the FPM.

Contract: An interim report is to be delivered to BCCAT after the completion of the above activities in the first part of the project. The interim report must contain: A description of activities undertaken (including the status of the Statistics transfer grid) and of progress on the project to date;

A decision on whether to proceed with the implementation or to abandon the project; and

If the implementation is to proceed, a budget for the second part of the project, including a line-by-line breakdown of each budget item.

The Economics Articulation Committee voted at its 2012 annual meeting to implement the FPM. The signoff sheets and the content of the agreement have been circulated to the

institutional representatives.

Contract: BCCAT will pay a maximum of \$7,500 for the costs of the first part of the project, as outlined above. These funds will only be disbursed upon approval of the interim report by the Transfer and Articulation Committee and upon receipt of an invoice. The remainder of the project budget will only be available upon approval by the Transfer and Articulation Committee.

An invoice for the first part of the project has been submitted. A final report will follow. Other than incidental expenses incurred by the committee or BCCAT there will be no further expenditures.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix I: Flexible Pre-Major Agreement

Appendix II: Flexible Pre-Major Signoff Form

# **Appendix I**

# Economics Flexible Pre-Major Agreement

Prepared by Bradley Krause, PhD

On behalf of the

**British Columbia Economics Articulation Committee** 

April 2012

#### **Forward**

This is a statement of agreement between the signatory institutions to implement a Flexible Pre-Major.

#### Section 1 (Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations)

#### **Definitions**

BCCAT: the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer Committee: The British Columbia Economics Articulation Committee

Committee of the Whole: The British Columbia Economics Articulation Committee Course: measured as three credit hours or 1.5 units for the University of Victoria

Economics Flexible Pre-Major (FPM): the content and structure outlined in this agreement

Major: an Economics major in a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree program

Sub-Committee: the sub-committee of the British Columbia Economics Articulation Committee

charged with analyzing, implementing and reporting on the Flexible Pre-Major.

#### Acronyms and Abbreviations

Institutions with Economics (Arts) Majors

SFU: Simon Fraser University TRU: Thompson Rivers University

UBC-V: University of British Columbia-Vancouver UBC-O: University of British Columbia-Okanagan

UFV: University of the Fraser Valley [BA major in Economics currently in approval process]

UNBC: University of Northern British Columbia

UVIC: University of Victoria VIU: Vancouver Island University

Institutions not offering an Economics Major but with courses that may transfer to the Major

Alexander: Alexander College

BCIT: British Columbia Institute of Technology

Camosun: Camosun College CapU: Capilano University CNC: College of New Caledonia Columbia: Columbia College Coquitlam: Coquitlam College

Corpus Christi: Corpus Christi College

COTR: College of the Rockies Douglas: Douglas College

FDU: Fairleigh Dickinson University KPU: Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Langara: Langara College NIC: North Island College

NLCC: Northern Lights Community College

NCC: Northwest Community College

OC: Okanagan College Quest: Quest University Selkirk: Selkirk College

SSDC: Sprott-Shaw Degree College

TRU-OL: Thompson Rivers University - Open Learning

TWU: Trinity Western University VCC: Vancouver Community College

#### **Section 2 (Purpose of this Agreement)**

The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate student transfer:

- a. For those students who intend to apply for admission to any of the signatory's institutions Arts Major in Economics;
- b. To minimize course duplication;
- c. To reduce the costs of delaying the institution-selection decision.

#### **Section 3 (Acknowledgement of Constraints to this Agreement)**

All institutions have internal constraints relating to student applications. This Flexible Pre-Major agreement acknowledges that constraints exist. Institutions agree to list those constraints in the Student Advisory guide, and to monitor those constraints and update as necessary. This agreement recognizes that institutions plan according to their own needs and from time to time, these plans may introduce new constraints affecting institutions' participation in this agreement. Institutions agree that they will provide notice of planned changes to the annual meeting of the British Columbia Economics Articulation Committee, to permit consideration of the changes and to discuss their possible effect(s) on this agreement.

#### **Section 4 (Commitments, Amendments and Reviews)**

This agreement is binding on the signatories.

Amendments to this agreement may be proposed by the British Columbia Economic Articulation Committee at its annual meeting, with any associated terms of acceptance to be included as part of those proposals. An institution may release itself from this agreement after giving 12 months' notice to the British Columbia Economic Articulation Committee, which will inform BCCAT.

The determination of whether to include institutions not previously party to this agreement is subject to the will of the Committee of the Whole, after recommendation by a subcommittee representing those institutions offering the BA in Economics major program. The will of the Committee of the Whole will be expressed by majority vote, with one vote per institution.

The course transfer grids associated with this agreement are to be reviewed annually at the committee's annual meeting. The Flexible Pre-Major agreement is to be reviewed a minimum of every three years after implementation.

#### **Section 5 (Correspondence to BC Transfer Guide)**

All courses subject to this agreement must be transferable to similar courses and calendared as such in the BC Transfer Guide as at the time of this agreement. Changes of transferability in or

to the guide are to be determined on a case-by-case basis at the annual review of the transfer grids.

Subject to the conditions in the above paragraph,

- a. All Principles of Economics courses are accepted for transfer;
- b. Post-Principles courses will be accepted for the Flexible Pre-Major;
- c. Sequential *Statistics courses* will be accepted for the Flexible Pre-Major; UVIC will accept a maximum of one course; and
- d. Sequential *Calculus courses* will be accepted for the Flexible Pre-Major.

#### Section 6 (Components of the Flexible Pre-Major)

*Table 1, Core Pre-Major Courses*, displays the Flexible Pre-Major courses by type that are agreed to be part of any Economics major in a BA degree program.

Table 1 Core Courses in the Flexible Pre-Major*						
Principles	Micro	Macro				
<b>Post-Principles</b>	Post-Principles I	Post-Principles II				
Quantitative	Calculus (Math)	Statistics				
*Each course is three credit hours (or 1.5 units).						

*Table 2, Principles of Economics Courses*, displays the current numberings of the two Principles courses at institutions participating in the FPM.

Table 2 Principles of Economics Courses							
Institutions Numbering of Micro Numbering of Ma							
(Institutions with BA Majors in Economics are in <b>Bold</b> )	courses	courses					
Alexander	103	105					
BCIT	2100	2200					
Camosun	103	104					
CapU	111	112					
CNC	201	202					
Columbia	103	105					
Coquitlam	201	202					
Corpus Christi	201	202					
COTR	101	102					
Douglas	1150	1250					
FDU	2001	2102					
KPU	1150	1250					
Langara	1220	1221					
NIC	110	111					
NLCC	105	102					

Table 2 Principles of Economics Courses								
Institutions	Institutions Numbering of Micro Numbering of Ma							
(Institutions with BA Majors in	courses	courses						
Economics are in <b>Bold</b> )								
NCC	150	151						
OC	115	125						
Quest	SOC 2001 + SOC 3001	SOC 2001 + SOC 3002						
Selkirk	107	106						
SFU	103	105						
SSDC	121	122						
TRU	1900	1950						
TRU-OL	1901	1951						
TWU	201	202						
UBC	101	102						
UBC-O	101	102						
UFV	100	101						
UNBC	100	101						
UVIC	103	104						
VCC	1100	1200						
VIU	211	212						

*Table 3, Mathematics Courses*, outlines the two Math courses in the FPM as identified by the Mathematics Articulation Committee's transfer grid and by the BC Transfer Guide.

Table 3 Mathematics Courses								
Institution	Mathematics Committee		Transfer Guide Listings for Courses Transferable to Majors					
	Calculus I	Calculus II	Math I	Math II				
Alexander	MATH 151	MATH 152	Math 104	Math 105				
BCIT	MATH 1100	MATH 2100						
Camosun	MATH 100	MATH 101	Math 108					
CapU	MATH 116	MATH 126	Math 108	Math 109				
CNC	MATH 101	MATH 102						
COTR	MATH 103	MATH 104						
Columbia	MATH 113	MATH 114	Math 111	Math 112				
Coquitlam	MATH 101	MATH 102						
Corpus Christi								

Table 3 Mathematics Courses							
Institution	Mathematics Committee		Transfer Guide Listings for Courses Transferable to Majors				
	Calculus I	Calculus II	Math I	Math II			
Douglas	MATH 1120 or MATH 1125	MATH 1220	MATH 1125				
FDU			QUANT 1239 or EGTG 2201	EGTG 2202			
KPU	MATH 1120	MATH 1220	MATH 1140	MATH 1240			
Langara	MATH 1171	MATH 1271	Math 1174	Math 1274			
NIC	MAT 181	MAT 182					
NLCC	MATH 101	MATH 102					
NCC	MATH 101	MATH 102					
Okanagan	MATH 112	MATH 122					
Quest			MAT3101	MAT 3101			
Selkirk	MATH 100	MATH 101					
SFU	MATH 151	<b>MATH 152</b>	<b>MATH 157</b>	MATH 158			
SSDC							
TRU	MATH 1140	MATH 1230	MATH 1170				
TRU-OL		MATH 1241	MATH 1171				
TWU			MATH 120				
UBC	<b>MATH 100</b>	<b>MATH 101</b>	<b>MATH 104</b>	MATH 105			
UBC-O			MATH 100 or 116; and	MATH 101 or 142;			
UFV	Math 111	Math 112	MATH 141 (or MATH 115)				
UNBC	MATH 100	<b>MATH 101</b>	MATH 150 or 220	MATH 100 or 152			
UVIC	MATH 100	<b>MATH 101</b>	MATH 102 or 100				
VCC	MATH 1100	MATH 1200					

Table 3 Mathematics Courses								
Institution	Mathematics Committee		Transfer Guide Listings for Courses Transferable to Majors					
	Calculus I	Calculus II	Math I	Math II				
VIU	<b>MATH 121</b>	<b>MATH 122</b>						
Yukon College	MATH 100	MATH 101						
*Items in bold are inferred from the published grid.								

### **Section 7 (Student Advisory Section)**

**This section is advisory only.** While institutions will make a best effort at maintaining current information in this section, students are advised to refer to the institutions' catalogues and information packages.

Advisory Table 1 Institutions offering Economics Majors in Degree Programs							
Institution	Degree	Type	Summary Sources (URL`s)				
SFU			http://www.sfu.ca/arts/current/WQB.html				
	BA	Major	http://www.econ.sfu.ca/Undergraduate Program/De greesandPrograms/MajorProgram.html				
	BA	Honours	http://www.econ.sfu.ca/Undergraduate_Program/DegreesandPrograms/HonoursProgram.html				
	BA or BBA	Joint Business & Economics Major	http://www.econ.sfu.ca/Undergraduate_Program/DegreesandPrograms/JointMajorwithBusinessAdministration.html				
TRU			http://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/index.htm?http://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/548.htm				
	BA	Major	http://www.tru.ca/business/economics/programs/bamajor.html				
	BA	Joint Major: Economics and Political Science	http://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/index.htm?http://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/548.htm				
	BBA	Major or Concentration	http://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/index.htm?http://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/548.htm				
UBC			http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tre e=12,197,282,55				
	BA	Major	http://www.econ.ubc.ca/majors/prog.htm				

	Advisory Table 1 Institutions offering Economics Majors in Degree Programs						
Institution	Degree	Туре	Summary Sources (URL`s)				
	BA	Honours	http://www.econ.ubc.ca/majors/hon.htm				
	BComm	Major	http://www1.sauder.ubc.ca/Programs/Bachelor_of_ Commerce/Program_Overview/Requirements/~/med_ ia/Files/BCom/Worksheets/DECommerceEcon.ashx				
	BA	Joint Major with: Philosophy, Political Science Math Statistics	http://www.econ.ubc.ca/majors/cmphil.htm http://www.econ.ubc.ca/majors/cmpoli.htm http://www.econ.ubc.ca/majors/cmmath.htm http://www.econ.ubc.ca/majors/cmstat.htm				
UBC-O			http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=18,282,857,1084#12398				
	BA	Major	http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=18,282,857,980				
	BA	Joint Major (Philosophy, Political Science and Economics)	http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=18,282,857,1255#14638				
	BSc	Major	http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=18,282,858,1224#14678				
UNBC							
	BA	Major	http://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/undergraduate_programs/economics.html				
	BA	Joint Major with Political Science	http://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/undergraduate_programs/economics.html				
	BSc	Joint Major with Mathematics	http://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/undergraduate_programs/economics.html				
UVIC							
	BA	Major	http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2009/FACS/FoSoS/DoEc/PrRe.html				
	BA	Honours	http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2009/FACS/FoSoS/DoEc/PrRe.html				
	BSc	Major	http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2009/FACS/FoSoS/DoEc/PrRe.html				
	BSc	Honours	http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2009/FACS/FoSoS/DoEc/PrRe.html				

Advisory Table 1 Institutions offering Economics Majors in Degree Programs					
Institution	Degree	Туре	Summary Sources (URL`s)		
VIU			http://www.viu.ca/calendar/UniversityDegreeCompletion/bamajorsminors/index.asp#degreerequirements		
	BA	Major	http://www.viu.ca/calendar/UniversityDegreeCompletion/bamajorsminors/economics.asp		

#### **Advisory Table 2** General Lower-Level BA Degree Program Requirements, with Number of Required **Credits in Each Area** UBC-UBC-UVIC<sup>1</sup> VIU **Institutions SFU TRU** UNBC V 0 **Economics** Major (Arts) 1. Economics -- Principles 8 3 6 6 6 6 6 $6^2$ 2. Economics – Post Principles 6 6 3. Economics -- Intermediate 6 3 6 6 64 4. Mathematics 3 6 6 6 1.5 3 4 3 3 3 3 5. Statistics 6. English (Literature) 1.5 6 6 6 6 $1.5^{3}$ 7. Writing Intensive 6 3 8. Humanities (B- Hum at SFU) 6 9. Sciences (B-Sci at SFU) 6 3 6 6 10. Social Sciences (other than 1.5 Economics) 11. Breadth courses 12 12 6 6 12. Distribution requirements 13. Language other than English 6 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UVIC's unit system uses numbers that are half of the credits at the other institutions. For example, 3 UVIC units equal 6 VIU credits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNBC requires *History of Economic Thought and Canadian Economic History* as the Post-Principles courses in the FPM. These courses may be taken following admission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> According to the BC Transfer Guide, UVIC requires *Econ* 225 to be taken at UVIC. It may be taken after admission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UBC: Math courses count towards completion of Science requirements.

Advisory Table 3 Courses Fulfilling Economics FPM requirements										
Requirements	SFU	TRU	UBC	UBC- O	UFV	UNBC	UVIC	VIU		
Economics Courses										
Micro Principles	ECON 103	ECON 1900	ECON	N 101	ECON 100	ECON 100	ECON 103	ECON 211		
Macro Principles	ECON 105	ECON 1950	ECON	N 102	ECON 101	ECON 101	ECON 104	ECON 212		
Post Principles I	Large variety including	ECON 2900	Large variety of 200 and 200+ level courses  Large variety of 200 and		ECON 215	ECON 202, 203, 205	Various	Various elective courses numbere d at the 300 level		
Post Principles II	Intermediate Micro (1) (proposed)	ECON 2950			Various numbered at 300+	ECON 202, 203, 205	numbered at 300+			
Mathematics a	and Statistics	Courses								
Statistics I	BUEC 232 or STAT 270	BUEC 2320	ECON 325 (UBC) ECON 327 (UBCO)		Bus 149 or MATH 104 or MATH 106 or MATH 270	ECON 205	ECON 245	MATH 161, 181, 211, QUME 232		
Math I		MATH 1170 or 1140	MATH 104	MATH 100 or 116	MATH 111 or MATH 115 or MATH 141	MATH 150 or 220		MATH 191, 121, 100		
Math II	MATH 158		MATH 105	MATH 101 or 142		MATH 100 or 152		MATH 122?		

Advisory Table 4 Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements										
Degree Requirements	SFU	TRU	UBC	UBC- O	UFV	UNBC	UVIC	VIU		
Minimum Upper Level Credits	45	48	48	48	45	36	21 units	42		
Lower Level Credits Possible	75	72	72	72	75	84	39 units	78		
Breadth Requirement	18 units outside of major + 6 additional (non- designated)	12 credits in at least four separate arts disciplines			30 credits in five or more subject areas outside the major	One course from: ENGL, HIST, PHIL, WMST		Any <i>two</i> of the following courses (6 credits): ENGL 115* (University		
Writing Requirement	6 units	12 credits of which 6 are lower level			Three credits from: ENGL 105 ENGL 210 or CMNS 155		ECON 225 as pre or co- requisite for 300 levels	(Literature and		
Reasoning Requirement		9 credits	or E 100 +	U 150 NGL LPI or L 112	PHIL 100 or ECON 100 + one additional)			Criticism)  OR (6 credits)  ENGL 115 (University Writing and Research)  and, ENGL 225 (Business and Technical Writing) for programs that require ENGL 225. OR(12 credits)		

Advisory Table 4 Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements										
Degree Requirements	SFU	TRU	UBC	UBC- O	UFV	UNBC	UVIC	VIU		
								LBST 111 (Ways of Knowing I) and, LBST 112 (Ways of Knowing II).		
Humanities		Minimum of 6 credits	from mo discip inclu	redits 2 or ore plines iding ne uage	6 credits					
Social Sciences			from mo discip (incl	redits 1 2 or ore plines udes ON)	6 credits (Includes ECON)	One of Commerce 100; Political Science 100; or International Studies 101.				
Lab Science					4 credits					
Natural Sciences			6 cre	edits						
Physical Sciences	6 units Quant courses		(includes MATH)			One of: CHEM, CPSC, MATH, PHYS, STAT				

## **Appendix II**

# Economics (Bachelor of Arts) Flexible Pre-Major Agreement

- 1. The Flexible Pre-Major Agreement is intended to clarify and simplify transfer arrangements for students wishing to transfer between BC post-secondary institutions in order to take a Bachelor in Arts with a major in Economics, typically after the second year of study. It was developed to address challenges students experience in transferring to different institutions after second year, specifically when they are forced to take additional first and second year courses in order to meet degree requirements, meet pre-requisites to take upper level courses, and/or register in the major at the receiving institution.
- 2. Under this agreement, sending institutions may continue to offer distinctive courses appropriate to their individual programs without restricting student access to various degree completion options. Students will find it easier to plan their programs and select courses because the Pre-Major courses are clearly identified and their possibilities for transfer will be maximized because the Pre-major is accepted by a number of participating institutions.
- 3. Students are advised that the Flexible Pre-Major does not guarantee acceptance into Economics major programs, as acceptance may depend on students obtaining a competitive GPA as specified by the receiving institution or on other conditions as set by the receiving institution.
- 4. The Flexible Pre-Major does not excuse students from non-discipline specific requirements of programs at the receiving institution, or from lower-level requirements in the Economics major at the receiving institution not covered by the Flexible Pre-Major. These must still be met prior to graduation with the major, and students are encouraged to examine the total program requirements of receiving institutions prior to applying for transfer.
- 5. The Flexible Pre-Major transfer agreement supplements and does not supersede existing processes for establishing transfer credits, and indeed, other non-program courses will be assessed on a course-by-course basis in accordance with the BC Transfer Guide.
- 6. The agreement does not commit an institution to offering all the courses of the Economics Pre-Major but for courses it does not offer, the institution will direct students to transferable and feasible alternatives available at other institutions, such as online.
- 7. A student who completes the requirements in every category identified in the Flexible Pre-Major will be deemed to have met the first and second year requirements of the Economics Pre-Major.

Based on the Economics Flexible Pre-Major as outlined, we agree to participate:

Institution:

Institution representative:

Name:

Title:

Email:

Signature:

#### The Flexible Pre-Major in Economics requires that students take:

- Principles of Microeconomics
- Principles of Macroeconomics;
- Two Post-Principles Economics courses (i.e. courses for which Principles of Microeconomics and/or Principles of Macroeconomics are pre-requisites)
- One Calculus course (Calculus I or equivalent).
- One Statistics course (or, for UBC, Calculus II or equivalent).

In total, the Flexible Pre-Major consists of six courses worth 18 credits or 9 units.