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Utah State University

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Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

Institution Submitting Request: Utah State University

Proposed Title: Discontinuation of the Plan C in the M.S. Degree in Applied Economics and the Creation of a Master of Applied Economics

Currently Approved Title:

School or Division or Location:

Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Applied Economics

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs):

Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 45.0602

Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): August 15, 2013 (Fall 2013)

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: March 8, 2013

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

R401-5			R401-6		
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>			<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		
Section #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Item	Section #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Item
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*	6.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid			
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs			
5.1.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs			
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation			
5.1.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension			
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Creation			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation			
5.1.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau			
5.1.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate			

*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature

Date:

Printed Name: Dr. Larry Smith

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

**Program Request - Abbreviated Template
Utah State University
Department of Applied Economics APEC**

**Discontinuation of the Plan C in the M.S. Degree in Applied Economics
and Creation of a Master of Applied Economics**

Section I: Request

Recently the Applied Economics department (APEC) completed an in-depth review of all its graduate programs and identified opportunities to improve selected programs. The current Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Economics degree program offers specializations in Agricultural Economics, Natural Resource Economics, and Regional Economic Development. In this M.S. program, students can select to complete either the Plan A (30 credits including 6 thesis credits), Plan B (30 credits including 3 thesis credits), or Plan C (33 credits - coursework only) option.

In the review of the APEC graduate program, it was found that the Plan C option was not representative of the rigors and activities associated with completing an M.S. degree. Therefore, the request of this R401 is to eliminate the Plan C option from the Master of Science in Applied Economics degree program and to restructure this Plan C into a Master of Applied Economics. This restructured professional degree is designed to meet the needs of practicing career professionals.

The current Master of Science in Applied Economics degree will continue as a Plan A Thesis option or Plan B technical paper option with specializations in Agricultural Economics, Natural Resource Economics, or Regional Economic Development.

Section II: Need

The current Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Economics emphasizes a wide range of economic theory applications, applied econometric techniques, and quantitative skills. It also requires proficiency in research methodology and statistical/econometric applications. This rigorous program is intended primarily for graduate students who want a solid background in research and for those who may be considering obtaining a terminal degree. In reviewing this program, it was determined that the Plan C (coursework only) did not meet the intent of this M.S. program and a need existed to eliminate this option.

Eliminating the Plan C of the M.S. program in Applied Economics will create an opportunity to restructure that degree program into a professional degree program to attract those who may be interested in completing a master's degree without a thesis in the broad area of Applied Economics. In the future, this professional degree may be offered on-line, which should be attractive to many place-bound career professionals in various county, state, or federal offices and agencies.

Currently, there are no similar professional master's degree programs in applied economics offered in the State of Utah. However, in the State of Utah and in the Intermountain Region, there are many practicing professionals whom we believe will be attracted to this flexible degree program.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The proposed program changes will have positive institutional impacts on USU. The proposed changes may help to increase graduate student enrollments in APEC and could help to improve visibility of all programs offered in the department. The proposed changes will not affect existing administrative structures or existing facilities and will have minimal impact on faculty and staff requirements.

Section IV: Finances

No costs or savings are anticipated to result from these program changes.

Section V: Program Curriculum

All Program Courses

The professional Master of Applied Economics degree is designed for professionals in the field who want to enhance their knowledge and skills in applied economic theory, applied econometric techniques, and quantitative methods used in economics. Individuals who successfully complete the program will be able to:

- Understand and apply economic theory and principles in decision making
- Understand quantitative methods and econometric techniques used in conducting economic analyses
- Display a depth of knowledge and understanding in one of the following areas
 - Agricultural Economics
 - Natural Resource Economics
 - Regional Economic Development
- Inform decision makers about the economic consequences of proposed policies.

This degree program with a focus in applied economics is an innovative 33-credit program with a core of four required APEC courses (12 credits); a minimum of three additional APEC courses (9 credits) and will provide opportunities for students to select electives that complement their chosen specialization: Agricultural Economics, Natural Resource Economics, or Regional Economic Development. These additional 12 elective credits will be available through the department of Applied Economics, and through other colleges and units on campus (e.g., from the College of Agriculture or from the College of Natural Resources).

The Master of Applied Economics will use existing graduate-level courses that are available in APEC or other related departments. Shown in the table below are the proposed required courses for this program and current electives available in APEC.

Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Required Core Courses (12 Credits)</i>		
APEC 6100 or APEC 7130	Microeconomic Theory I	3
APEC 6300 or APEC 7350	Quantitative Analysis or Mathematical Economics I	3
APEC 6330 or APEC 7310	Applied Econometrics or Econometrics I	3
APEC 5000 or ECN 5000	Macroeconomics & Trade or Macroeconomics Topics	3
	Sub-Total	12
<i>Elective Courses</i>	Students select a minimum of 9 credits from the following list of approved APEC courses.	
APEC 6030	Agricultural Marketing	3
APEC 6040	Agribusiness Production and Supply Chain Management	3
APEC 6500	Introduction to Natural Resource Economics	3
APEC 6510	Introduction to Environmental Economics	3
APEC 6700	Regional and Community Economic Development	3
APEC 6710	Community Planning and Impact Analysis	3
APEC 7140	Microeconomic Theory II	3
APEC 7320	Econometrics II	3
APEC 7360	Mathematical Economics II	3
<i>Other Elective Courses not in APEC</i>	Students select a maximum of 12 credits of courses from other departments. These must be approved by the students committee.	
	Sub-Total	21
	Total Number of Credits	33

Program Schedule

The courses for the professional Master of Applied Economics are offered during the Fall and Spring Semesters. The flexibility of this program will allow most students to complete the degree in two years or less.

Faculty

The following faculty from the department of Applied Economics will be involved in delivering instruction in this program:

DeeVon Bailey, Professor, Ph.D., Agricultural Economics

Ryan Bosworth, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Environmental Economics and Econometrics

Arthur Caplan, Professor, Ph.D., Environmental Economics and Applied Microeconomic Theory
Kynda Curtis, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Agribusiness Management
Dillon Feuz, Professor and Head, Ph.D., Agricultural Economics
Paul Jakus, Professor, Ph.D., Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
Man-Keun Kim, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Regional Economics
Reza Oladi, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Economic Theory and Trade
Charles Sims, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Natural Resource Economics and Quantitative Methods
Don Snyder, Professor, Ph.D., Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics and Econometrics
Ruby Ward, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Agribusiness and Community Economic Development