

Assessment Summary

Macro & Microeconomics

2021 – 2022

The major assessment goal for economics students at Concordia Seward for the 2021-22 academic year was understanding entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial ability and who entrepreneurs are. Students in the traditional and the alternative delivery modes failed to meet standard. This is the second consecutive year where both the traditional and alternative deliveries failed to meet the standard, although, if only one of the alternative delivery students had gotten one certain question right instead of wrong, the alternative class (n=8) would have met the standard.

Assessment Criteria

In order to be considered a success, students must perform better than average on the five questions listed on the last page of this summary. The overall average exam score of students in the traditional delivery course of Microeconomics (ECON 102) in the 2021-22 school year was 79.3% (lower than the previous year's 84.3%). Students must score a minimum of 80% on each of the five questions to be considered better than average.

Entrepreneurship Knowledge Assessment Macroeconomics (ECON 101 & 102) 2021-22 Concordia University Nebraska – Traditional Delivery (n=62)				
CHAPTER	QUESTION	% CORRECT	% BASELINE	DIFFERENCE
1 & 2	I	69%	80%	-11%
1 & 2	II	93%	80%	+13%
2	III	81%	80%	+1%
11	IV	75%	80%	-5%
15	V	81%	80%	+1%

In the traditional delivery course, taught with an online recorded lecture format at Concordia University Nebraska, students did not meet the minimum requirements on questions I and IV. The 62 students in this population did not meet the criteria for understanding entrepreneurial ability, entrepreneurship and what entrepreneurs do. Although the concept of entrepreneurial ability is presented in the text book, certain aspects of entrepreneurship and what defines an entrepreneur - as opposed to a wage earner – were presented in lecture only. In particular, students do not grasp that entrepreneurship is a human activity distinct from labor and that it is entrepreneurs who drive creative destruction. It is likely that a few celebrity entrepreneurs (Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos in particular) make entrepreneurship appear other worldly. Next year, emphasis will be placed on the idea that anybody can work as an entrepreneur and use entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship Knowledge Assessment AP Macroeconomics (Blended) 2021-22 High School – Alternative Delivery (n=8)				
CHAPTER	QUESTION	% CORRECT	% BASELINE	DIFFERENCE
1 & 2	I	88%	80%	+8%
1 & 2	II	100%	80%	+ 20%
2	III	75%	80%	- 5%
11	IV	100%	80%	+ 20%
15	V	100%	80%	+ 20%

In the alternative delivery course, taught with hybrid methods at a Lutheran High School, the students met four of the criteria and failed on one. This is an improvement over the 2020-21 school year when students failed on two criteria by a wide margin (40%). The small population size of the alternative delivery group meant that if two of eight students missed a question, it failed to meet the standard. That happened on Question III only. The alternative delivery mode must still be considered a positive result despite the technical failure to meet the standard.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Economics instructors in both traditional and alternative delivery modes will continue to emphasize the concepts of entrepreneurial ability, entrepreneurship and the entrepreneur as in individual human actor in the 2022 – 23 school year. In the traditional university class, the instructor will deliver the lecture and written material for the students to self study and then try to answer any questions face-to-face. Both the college and high school instructors will emphasize the difference between paid work for defined tasks (Labor) and risks taken in the cause of advancement (Entrepreneurial Ability).

Students will be evaluated on the same subject matter in the 2022 – 23 school year.

Assessment Questions

I. There are four factors of production. Which of the following best describes Labor?

- A. *The mental or physical exertion of employees.*
- B. Human made resources that are used to produce products or services.
- C. The human resource that identifies opportunities and bears the risk of failure.
- D. Products of nature not made by humans that can be used to produce goods and services.

II. Entrepreneurs find economic inefficiencies, develop a more efficient way of business and then get the rewards for improving efficiency. Which of the following answers best describes entrepreneurial ability?

- A. Making the right pricing decisions
- B. Use of new, digital technologies
- C. *Changing the way things are done*
- D. Creating market demand

III. Using this definition of entrepreneurship – human actions which modify the present, intended to achieve objectives in the future – who uses entrepreneurship?

- A. *Anybody who makes decisions with future objectives.*
- B. Only people who work for themselves.
- C. Only people who run a business startup.
- D. Owners of capital factors of production.

IV. Creative Destruction of established firms by newer firms is primarily driven by:

- A. Scientists, who make new discoveries.
- B. Government, by promoting better businesses.
- C. *Entrepreneurs, by eliminating inefficiencies.*
- D. Accountants, by identifying costs.

V. Technological advance often involves start up companies with owner entrepreneurs. What stages of technological development can entrepreneurs be involved in?

- A. Invention, but not innovation or diffusion.
- B. Innovation and diffusion, but not invention.
- C. *Invention, innovation and diffusion.*
- D. Invention and innovation, but not diffusion.