

# **Economic Research in the Community (ECON 4670)**

Prerequisites: Economics 4660

## **Course description:**

This is the capstone course based on Economics 4660 – Statistical Tools for Applied Economics Research. In this course, students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to assist organizations in the Utah community. Students will work in small teams on assigned community projects that involve statistical and economic analysis leading up to a professional econometric report.

## **Course learning outcomes:**

1. Provide an opportunity to apply econometric knowledge to a real-world project
2. Provide practical hands-on experience solving and managing an econometric project
3. Develop skills in oral presentations and professional report writing
4. Provide real-world professional experience working with clients

## **Course overview:**

This course is devoted to “doing” econometrics. Relatively small groups of students will work closely with clients on selected analyses. Over the course of this semester, students will identify appropriate statistical strategies, organize and collect relevant data, and prepare meaningful reports and presentations. Every week the class will meet and review progress. Although each group will have different assignments and most likely be using different statistical tools, the entire class will benefit from learning about the diversity of issues and discovering commonalities among the clients. During the last month of the semester, the groups will present their results to the entire class.

The projects will generally follow these steps:

1. Project definition and background
2. Data acquisition and preparation
3. Data exploration
4. Data analysis
5. Project completion and recommendations

During the semester the class will be involved in:

1. Lectures and discussions
2. Visits to the community organizations by the student team for client meetings, project information, data collection and other purposes.

3. Project conceptualization and outline of work.
4. Progress meetings, reports, and team evaluations submitted to faculty mentor as well as oral presentations to the class.
5. A final report consisting of an in-class oral presentation and a written final report presented to the sponsoring organization.

**Grading:**

Project conceptualization and team development: 45%

Informal progress reports and presentations: 10%

Team evaluations: 45%

(Project concept and evaluation rubrics are provided)

## Economics 4670 Team Effectiveness Rubric

Your name:

Your team:

### 1. Setting Purpose and Direction

- Discussed and clarified the team's purpose
- Reviewed or developed why the team exists and what makes it unique
- Identified the actions required to achieve the team's goals
- Created measurable team goals and deadlines

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Score
< 13	13	15	17	20	

Comments:

### 2. Defining Roles and Responsibilities

- Introduced team members and discussed their skills and abilities
- Discussed and decided on roles and responsibilities of team members
- Team member roles were clearly defined and did not overlap
- The team's work was distributed relatively evenly among members

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Score
< 13	13	15	17	20	

Comments:

### 3. Designing Procedures and Practices

- Discussed and decided on team norms
- Determined how team members would communicate
- Decided how information in the team would be shared
- Determined how decisions would be made in the team

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Score
< 13	13	15	17	20	

Comments:

#### 4. Building Cooperation, Trust, and Relationships

- Team members followed through on agreed-upon procedures
- Members worked to create a sense of supportiveness and openness
- Members managed conflicts and problems efficiently

<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>&lt; 13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	

Comments:

#### 5. Team Performance

- The team's results exceeded expectations given the team's membership
- Members discussed the team's results and identified methods of improving future performance

<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>&lt; 13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	

Comments:

### Summary

<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
<b>&lt; 60</b>	<b>60-69</b>	<b>70-79</b>	<b>80-89</b>	<b>90-100</b>	

## Economics 4670 Presentation Rubric

Your name:

Presenting Project:

### 1. Content & Structure

- Began with an captivating opening
- Stated the purpose and provided a preview of what would be discussed
- Used a logical and understandable structure for the presentation
- Presented main points clearly
- Used supporting evidence
- Presentation was interesting
- Used smooth transitions
- Closing was strong and effective

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Score
< 26	26	30	34	40	

Comments:

### 2. Audience Focus

- Presentation was geared to the interests/needs of the audience
- The level of audience interaction was appropriate
- Presentation approach was modified as necessary based on audience reaction

Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Score
< 13	13	15	17	20	

Comments:

### 3. Delivery

- Engaged the audience through effective eye contact and gestures
- Showed enthusiasm
- Avoided distracting mannerisms
- Used vivid language such as analogies, comparisons, and examples
- Moved toward and away from audience at appropriate times
- Used a natural, conversational delivery style, didn't memorize or rely on notes
- Created a professional impression through appearance, enunciation, and language
- Handled questions thoughtfully

<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>&lt; 13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	

Comments:

### 4. Visuals

- Used visuals that were appropriate for the presentation
- The visuals were simple, readable, and professional
- Visuals were presented in a skillful and non-distracting manner

<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>&lt; 13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	

Comments:

### Summary

<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
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