

McGILL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CREDIT FOR ECONOMICS COURSES TAKEN ELSEWHERE

This document deals with credit for economics courses taken elsewhere. Included in this category are: Advanced Placement courses taken prior to joining McGill, summer school courses or courses taken in other universities as an exchange or visiting student. The students may want credit for such courses in order to satisfy the requirements for our Majors or Minors Programs or to satisfy their elective credit requirements.

General Principles

In general, the Department grants credit for a course taken elsewhere if its structure is comparable to that of courses given by the Department and if the student has earned the equivalent of a C or better in it. Two criteria are used to determine the comparability of the course structure:

1. Comparability of contact hours

Since McGill 3-credit courses generally involve 39 contract hours, the Department normally grants only 3 credits for a course taken elsewhere if it involves approximately 39 contact hours.

In cases where a course involves fewer than 39 hours, the Departmental advisor may or may not accept the course for transfer credits. If it is accepted for transfer credits, it may be allocated 3 credits or less than 3 credits, with 3 credits being allocated only if there is evidence that the course involved a substantially greater workload outside of the classroom.

2. Comparability of reading lists and grading practices

The comparability of reading lists, course requirements and grading practices relative to the Departmental norms is taken into account in deciding whether the credit given is at the 200, 300 or 400 level. For example: to be treated as a 400-level course, a course taken elsewhere should involve a paper.

To determine whether this criteria is satisfied, the student has to provide a copy of the course syllabus. Course descriptions in university catalogues lack sufficient detail.

NOTES:

- (a) Transfer credits can be given even for economics courses dealing with subjects not covered by the courses currently offered by the Department. Examples: Regional economics, Economic History of Spain, etc.
- (b) It is the student's responsibility to provide the information needed to determine whether credit should be given.
- (c) For the Majors Program, students can receive at most 12 credits for courses taken elsewhere; for the Minors Program, students can receive at most 6 credits for courses taken elsewhere.

Limits on total number of credits being transferred:

The maximum number of credits transferred to a program (Honours, Majors or Minors) of the Department will not normally exceed one-third of the total number of credits required for the program.

Replacement for Micro (ECON 230D), Macro (ECON 330D) and Economic Statistics (ECON 227D) for Majors in Economics:

Majors students sometime propose replacing ECON 230D (or ECON 330D) with two micro (macro) courses, an introductory one and an intermediate level one, taken elsewhere. The Department does not permit such a replacement. It views the year-long ECON 230D and ECON 330D as covering more than the material typically covered in the introductory and intermediate level micro and macro sequences.

To avoid complications arising from this policy, students need to plan their programs prior to taking courses elsewhere. If they want to go abroad in their U2 year, they should do ECON 230D in the U1 year and ECON 330D in their U3 year.

Many universities offer a two-semester course in economic statistics. If a student completes such a course and it meets the hour and content requirements, transfer credit equivalent to ECON 227D (Statistics) will be given for such a course. In cases where a student takes two one-term courses in elementary and intermediate statistics and the content and hour requirements are met, the Department is likely to give 6 transfer credits.

Advanced Approval

Students often want approval in advance for courses that they plan to take elsewhere. Sometimes this is easy to do. Often, however, students cannot obtain the necessary information about contact hours and course workload until the course starts. This has proved to be a significant problem, so that advanced approval is normally not possible. However, students may use the above criteria as guidelines in judging whether they are likely to receive credit for courses elsewhere.

If approval for courses away has not been given because of inadequate information prior to going away, students can e-mail the Departmental advisor after their arrival at the host university the required information on the courses they intend to take, their contact hours, course descriptions and course content, along with their preferences among these courses.

Students planning to take courses at other universities are advised to discuss their plans in advance with the Departmental advisor.

Transfer Students

Occasionally, a student transfers to McGill after taking some economics courses at their prior university and wants to do a Majors in Economics. Courses other than in micro or

macro theory are treated just like courses taken by McGill students visiting another university (see above).

In the case of a transfer student who has done a year of micro or macro in another university prior to transferring to McGill, the Departmental advisor may grant exemption from ECON 230D and/or ECON 330D. However, if such exemption is granted, the student may be required to do a 400 level theory-related course to satisfy the Majors requirements. Examples: For micro, the requirement might be to do ECON 405 or ECON 447; for macro, ECON 423.

Honours Students

Honours students are normally expected to take all courses needed to satisfy the Honours requirements at McGill itself. When beginning to consider studying abroad, Honours students should consult an Honours Advisor.

Advanced Placement Economics courses

New students sometimes have earned an advanced placement in economics prior to admission. Typically, these are students who have gone to a private school abroad or done an International Baccalaureate diploma. When they are admitted to McGill, they receive credit for advanced placement in various fields. As a result, they are required to do correspondingly fewer credits than 120 in order to graduate.

Advanced Placement economics courses yield no credit towards the McGill Economics' Majors or Minor Programs. These students are treated like students who have done economics courses in a CEGEP. If they complete ECON 208 and/or ECON 209 at McGill, they can still receive credit for these courses (but not towards their Economics' Majors or Minor), as well as for ECON 230D and ECON 330D.

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