Program Review Department Report

Click here for the Kansas Board of Regents' instructions and definitions for Program Review.

BARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

ECONOMICS

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Program Review Program ReportBARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

ECONOMICS

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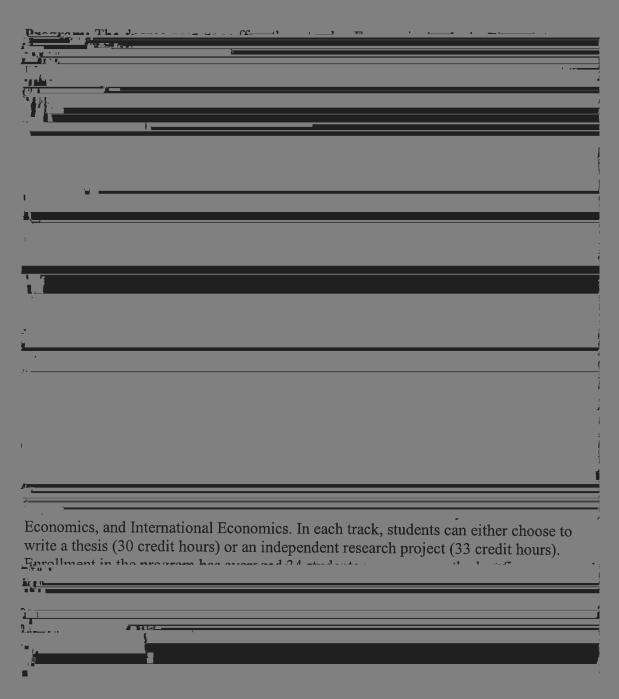
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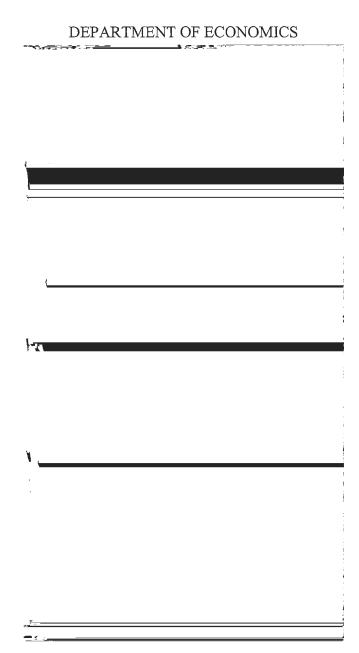
Wichita State University GRADUATE SCHOOL KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS 2009 PROGRAM REVIEW Master of Arts in Economics

Review process: The Associate Dean of the Graduate School and members of the WSU Graduate Council reviewed the Self-Study Report, provided by the Department of Economics of W. Frank Barton School of Business.



Student Needs and Employer Demand: The self-study indicates that the department surveys current and graduating students. Information from students is used to refine the program to better meet the interests and goals of students. The department has data on where their M.A. graduates are employed after graduation. Demand for program graduates appears to be strong from local, national, and international companies. In addition, several students have gone on to Ph.D. programs in economics.

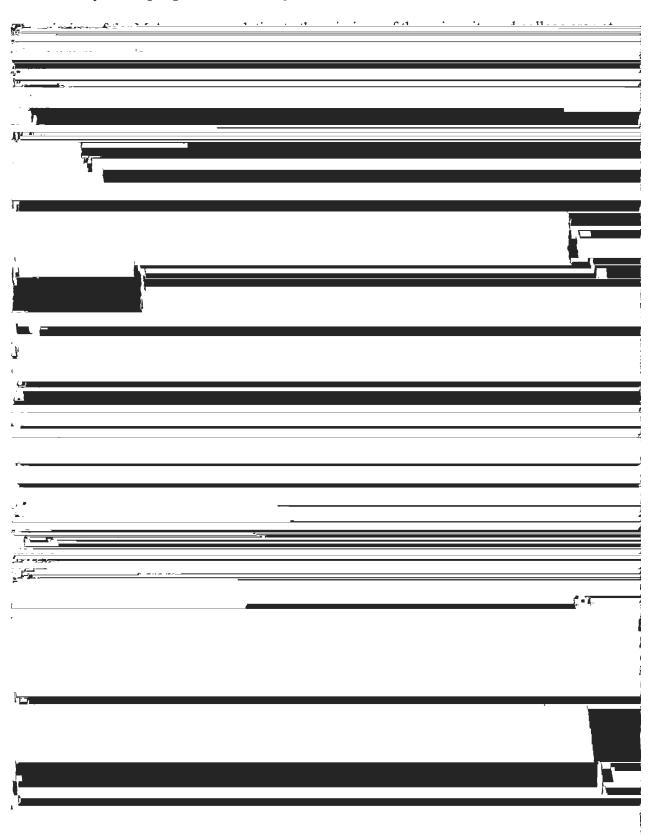
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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS PROGRAM REVIEW

a. Centrality of the program to fulfilling the mission and role of \ensuremath{WSU}



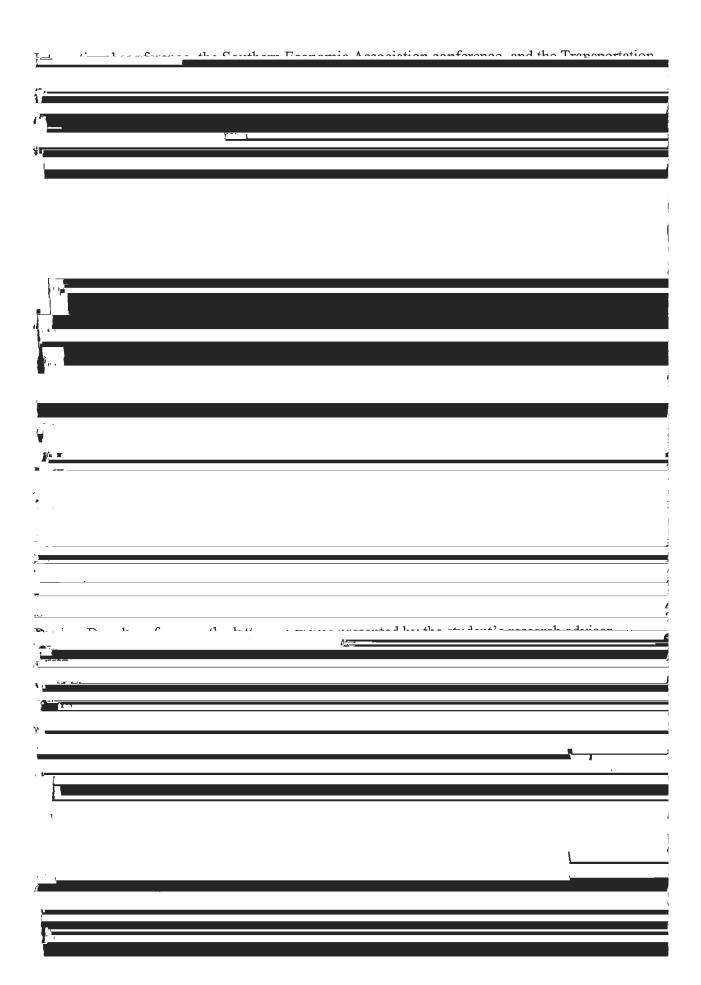
terms of graduate faculty standing, seven members of the professorial faculty have full membership, while the assistant professor has associate membership. All of the graduate faculty hold doctoral degrees in economics, five from programs consistently ranked in the top 25

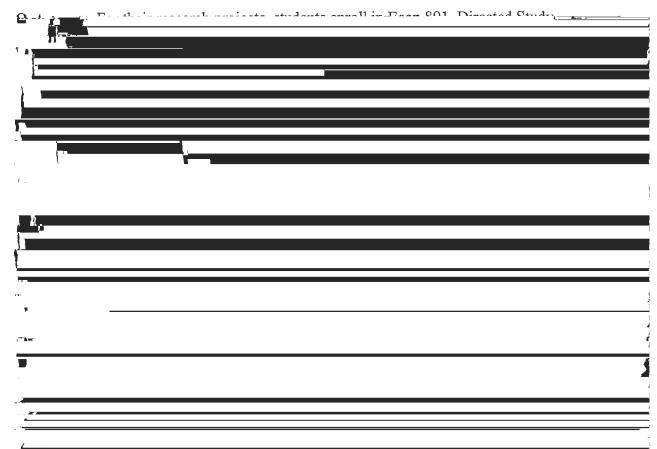


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The International Economics track is geared to those with an interest in the international economy, both from a business and policy perspective. The required courses are Econ 672: International Economics and Business, Econ 674: International Finance, and the seminar Econ 1-TI mairec - mars - and the formation of Door 710 or



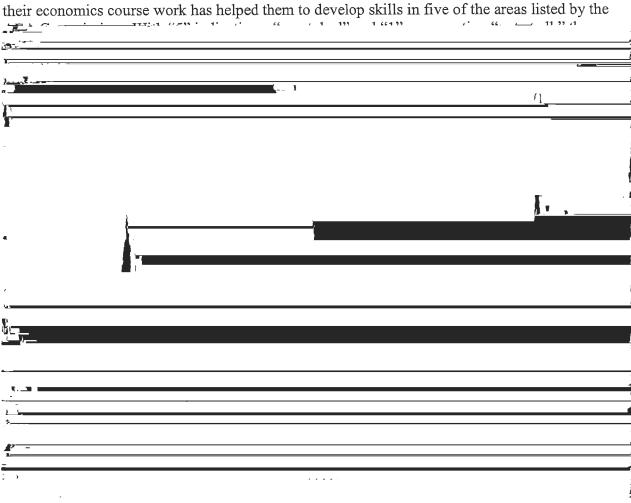


With the exception of three students, all who have enrolled in Econ 891 successfully completed the research portion of the program. One of the three who did not complete the project, one had other academic issues that led to discontinuance from the program. (During the past three years, no students chose to enroll in thesis).

Feedback into the Program

The department has created a Graduate Curriculum/Assessment Committee that meets annually to review the results of the assessment and to provide feedback into the program. A number of Committee suggestions have been implemented by the Department. These include:

- To improve student in their research projects, the Department has purchased multiple of both s *Economical* and S. Greenlaw's *Economics* The former is a writing guide, the latter contains sections on writing, plus other useful information on writing research reports. Copies are made available to students enrolling in Directed Study.
- The Department has created new project guidelines, including earlier draft deadlines.
 The latter intended to provide sufficient time for content and editorial improvements.
- To improve student facility with economic models, Econ 702 (Mathematical Methods in



average responses were: Analytical ability, 4.15 Critical Judgment, 3.75 Applications, 4.17 Empirical Skills, 4.03 Communications, 3.61

Communications scored the lowest rating. The major written communications component in the program, however, is the research project (or thesis) usually written in the student's final semester. Few if any of the surveyed students were at the writing stage of their project.

d. Demonstrated student need and employer demand for the program.

The Graduate School's survey of exiting students reports that 88.9 percent of the program's graduating students are either satisfied or very satisfied with their graduate studies. On a scale of 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), the mean response (N=56) is 4.31.

In the interests of hetter meeting the interests and goals of its students and to provide more

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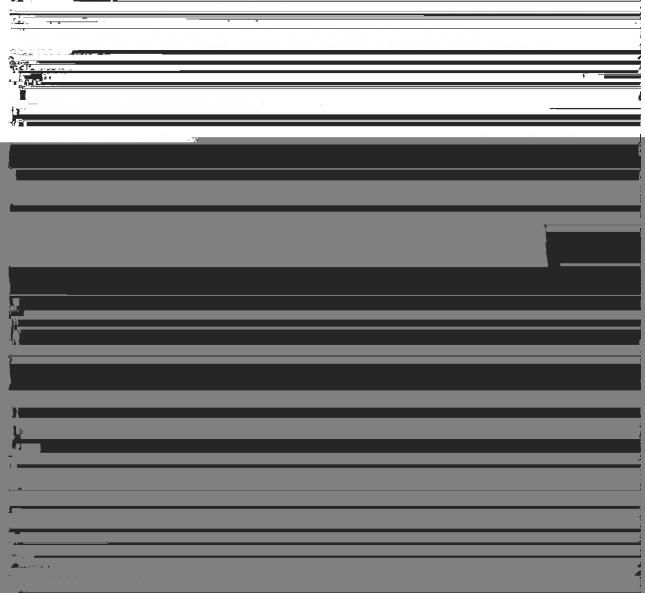
Agriculture & Resource Economics, Allied International, Emprise Bank, Provident Funding (mortgage underwriting), Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand, Century International, IBX (a leading European procurement consulting firm), and Chordiant Software (analytical business and financial software). Two others are fulltime instructors at local colleges (Cowley Community College, Newman University).

e. The services the program provides to the discipline, the university, and beyond.

The Discipline

As noted . the department faculty present papers, serve as session and serve as

have worked on a project on pertaining to demographic changes in rural Kansas. Another faculty member's research centers on the general aviation market which plays a major role for both metropolitan and state economies. Lastly two faculty members, one serving as director, are actively involved with the Center for Economic education. The center is part of the state-wide Kansas Council on Economic Education, and the National Council on Economic Education, and provides training and materials to public, private, and parochial K - 12 teachers on ways to



service courses for the College of Education, the faculty members do presentations for teachers, teacher service centers and school districts (particularly USD 259) when called upon.

f. The program's cost effectiveness.

1. The program's cost effectiveness.

2. The program's cost effectiveness.

3. The program's cost effectiveness.

4. The program's cost effectiveness.

4. The program's cost effectiveness.

5. The program's cost effectiveness.

6. The program's cost effectiveness.

Due to the existence of the m sters program, six courses are taught annually by Department faculty that otherwise would probably not be o (Econ /02,/31,/40, 801,803, and 8/0)

Two of these classes (Econ 803 and 870) have been taught for over the past ten years as a

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whole. The latter is a further inducement to attracting and maintaining a strong faculty.

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DESCRIPTION	1. Salaries/Benefits	2. Other Operating Exp. 3. Total	1. Lower Division	2. Upper Division	3. Masters	4. Doctoral	5.Total	1. Their Undergraduate	Majors	2. Their Graduate Majors	3. No	1. Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Head Count	2. Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty with Terminal Degrees	3. Total Tenured Faculty	Total Instructional Faculty FTE in Department
SECTION	Section I: Part A: Academic Instruction Expenditures		Section I: Part B: Student Credit Hour Production					Section I: Part D: Percentage of Departmental SCH taken	by:			Section I: Part E: Departmental Faculty			

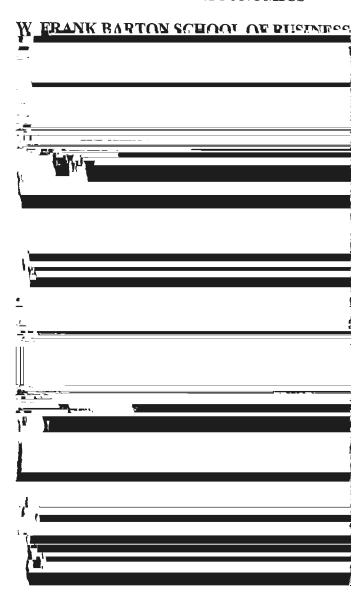
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CTION	DESCRIPTION	2002	2003	2004	2002	2006	2007	2008
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	4. Number Reporting an ACT Score	6				14	14	14
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ection II: Part C: Degrees	1. Associate	0	0	0		0	0	0
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	3. Masters	12	0	12	1	10	7	14
	4. First Prof / Specialist / Certificate	0	0	0		0	0	0
	5. Doctorate	0	-0-	0	0	0	0	0

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



W. Frank Barton School of Business Program Review For the Economics Major 2002-2008

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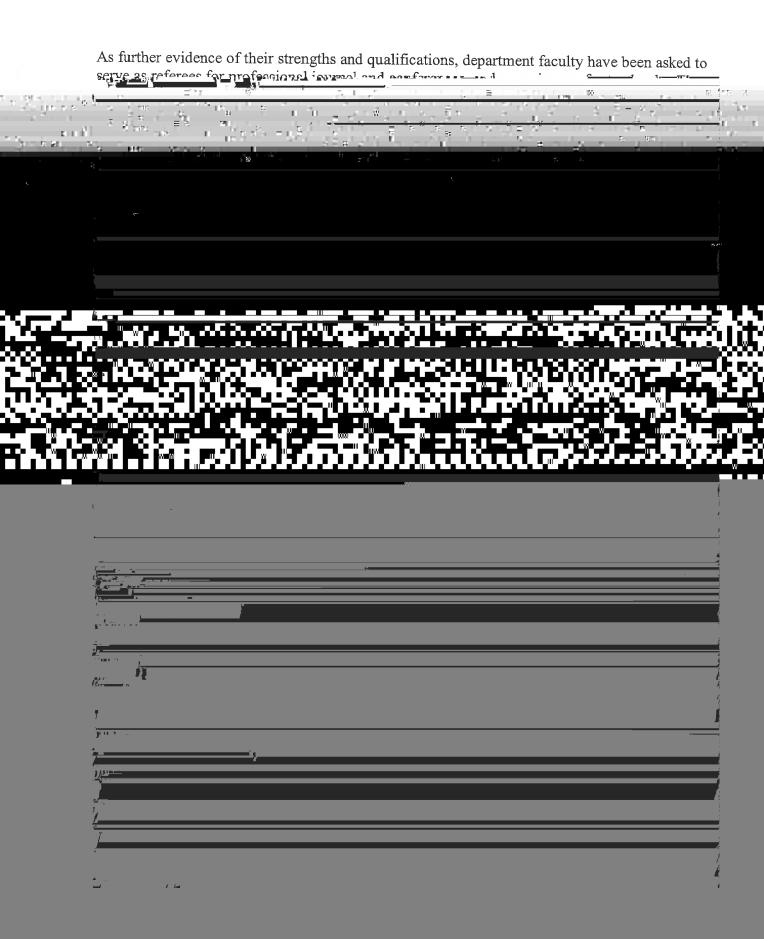
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The mission	on of Wichita State University is to provide comprehensive educ	cational	
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Education Program, by taking a minimum of two Introductory courses and a Further Studies course. Economics 201, Principles of Macroeconomics, is designated as an Introductory

All students at WSU are required to learn about the social sciences as part of their General

b) The quality of the program as assessed by the strengths, productivity, and qualifications of the faculty

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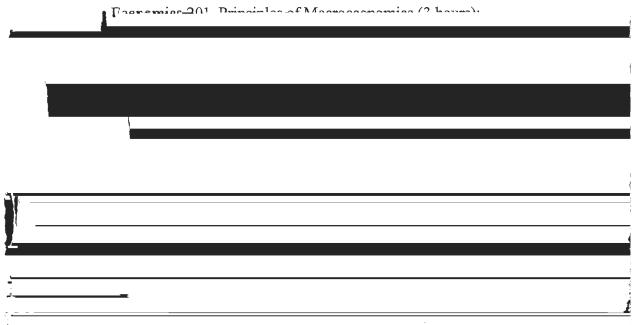
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c. The quality of the program as assessed by the curriculum and the impact of the curriculum on the students

Curriculum

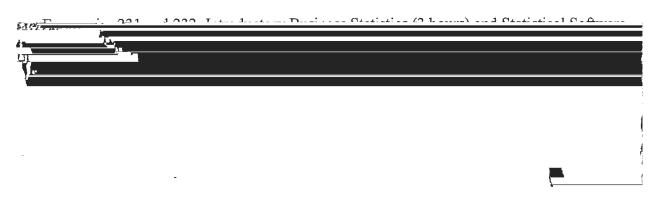
The Economics Department offers multiple sections each semester of two classes that serve the needs of the university's General Education Program and the needs of business majors in the Barton School:



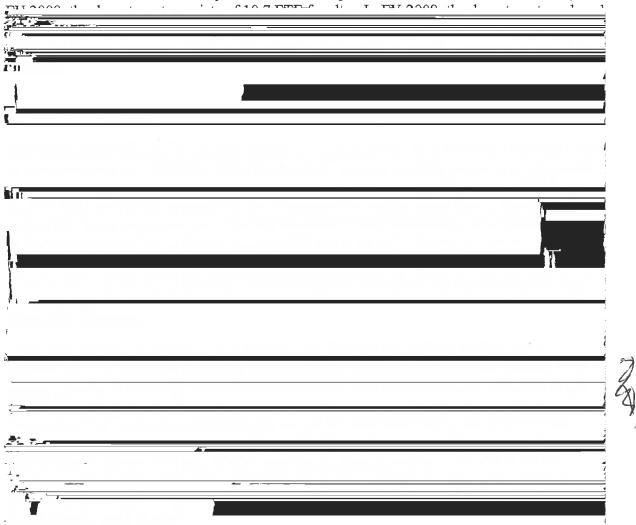
• Economics 202, Principles of Microeconomics (3 hours).

The department also teaches multiple sections each year of several courses that primarily serve the needs of business majors in the Barton School:

- Economics 231, Introductory Business Statistics (3 hours);
- Economics 232, Statistical Software Applications for Business (1 hour);
- Economics 310, Economics of E-Business (3 hours);
- Economics 340, Money and Banking (3 hours);
- Economics 672, International Economics and Business (3 hours);
- Economics 674, International Finance (3 hours).



The requirements for the economics major and minor are consistent with other AACSB accredited business schools. A potential weakness of the program is the lack of required courses in econometrics and the history of economic thought. These omissions are primarily the result of not having enough faculty members to provide all the courses that would ideally be included in the economics major. In 1992, the department consisted of 18 FTE faculty. In



d. Demonstrated student need and employer demand for the program

As documented in other sections of this report, most of the students in classes taught by the Department of Economics are not economics majors, but are instead students in other majors who are taking economics as part of their General Education Program, as part of their education as a business major in the Barton School, as part of another major outside the Barton School, or out of intellectual curiosity. This situation is common to most colleges and universities that have business schools; economics has a large number of majors only at those colleges and universities that do not offer undergraduate business studies. This characteristic of the department at Wichita State University means that addressing student needs and employer demand must be done indirectly.





are accredited by AACSB. AACSB's inclusion of economics in the required business core is

e) The services the program provides to the discipline, the university, and beyond The Discipline: The Economics Department at Wichita State provides service to the discipline of economics in five ways: 1) the department provides educational services to undergraduate economics majors and graduate M. A. in Economics students, thereby adding of knowledge in economics by conducting and publishing research in economics; 3) the department faculty present papers, serve as session chairs, and serve as discussants at

The Metropolitan Area and the State: Faculty members also use their expertise in the í

f) The program's cost effectiveness

Credit-hour-based indicators of cost effectiveness

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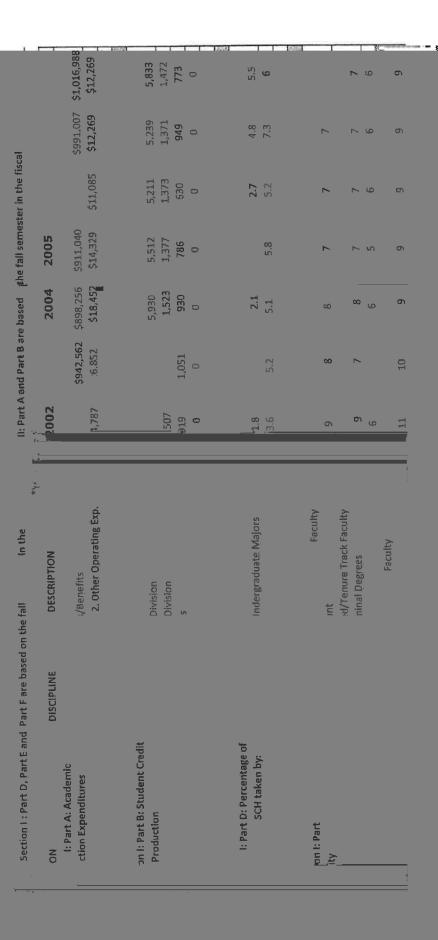
Wichita State University provides cost-effective instruction. Given the majority of courses

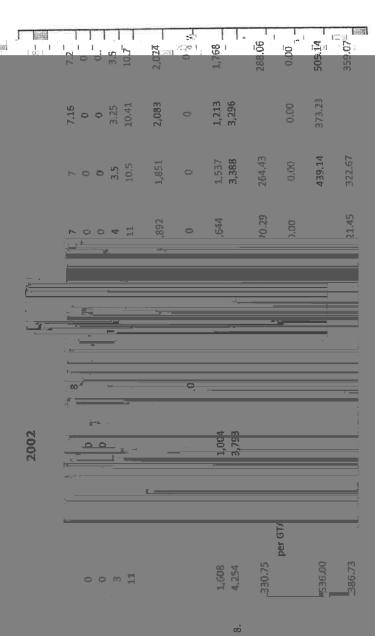
¹ For example, if a professor had a six-course annual teaching load, one of which was ECON301 or ECON302, then one-sixth of his/her salary and employer benefits were allocated to the program's incremental cost.

Looking at the two sp	ecific economics	s courses that up	ndergraduate e	conomics major	s are	
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on II: Part C: Degrees

Section II: Part B: ACT Scores of Undergraduate Jrs.,Srs

Section II: Part A: Majors in the Discipline