Mission / Purpose

The Department of Economics and Finance teaches and offers degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels, undertakes research in the disciplines of economics and finance, serves as a knowledge resource for the New Orleans business community as well as the state and nation, and serves in professional organizations. The Department of Economics and Finance offers the Bachelor of Science in Finance and Doctor of Philosophy in Financial Economics degrees. The Bachelor's degree provides undergraduate students with a basic foundation in their discipline to prepare them for jobs in business. The Ph.D. degree provides students with the most advanced knowledge and research experience in Financial Economics. The Ph.D. prepares students to teach and conduct research at the university or professional industrial level.

As part of the College of Business Administration the Department also joins in the College mission of the College of Business Administration to deliver a quality business education to our international, regional, and local communities through teaching, research, service to our stakeholders, and the effective use of technology. We will facilitate economic development and entrepreneurial activity, and adhere to the core values of continuous improvement, high ethical standards, and diversity in the educational environment.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Core knowledge of Financial Economics
All students should demonstrate core knowledge of Financial Economics.

Related Measures

M 1: Departmental Qualifying Exams
Faculty-developed rubric on the Departmental Qualifying Exams.
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
All students should score at least 6 or above on the rubric

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Partially Met
One student out of 8 did not score at least a 6 on most of the measures in the rubric. That student failed the exam and had to retake it. They did pass on the second attempt and demonstrated the needed competencies. The weakest of the skills tested was "knowledge of the the theoretical literature".

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
focus on theoretical literature
Teachers in the core PhD courses plan to spend more time on the theoretical literature and be sure to add assignments to help students comprehend them.
Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Departmental Qualifying Exams | Outcome/Objective: Core knowledge of Financial Economics

Projected Completion Date: 12/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Instructors in core PhD courses

SLO 2: Advanced knowledge of Financial Economics
All students should demonstrate advanced knowledge of Financial Economics.

Related Measures

M 2: Departmental Field Exams
Faculty-developed rubric on the Departmental Field Exams.
Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target:
All students should score at least 6 or above on the rubric

SLO 3: Original research in Financial Economics
All students should demonstrate the ability to do original research in Financial Economics.

Related Measures

M 3: Dissertation defense
Dissertation defense by jury of 5 faculty members.
Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target:
All students must pass their dissertation defense.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met
During the last academic year 9 students successfully defended their dissertations before a jury of 5 faculty.

**Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):**

**continue**  
Continue to support doctoral students in their research to be able to help them successfully complete a research agenda that is acceptable to their dissertation committees.

- **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
- **Implementation Status:** Planned  
- **Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
- **Measure:** Dissertation defense  
- **Outcome/Objective:** Original research in Financial Economics

**Responsible Person/Group:** Doctoral Faculty

**Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)**

**continue**  
Continue to support doctoral students in their research to be able to help them successfully complete a research agenda that is acceptable to their dissertation committees.

- **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
- **Implementation Status:** Planned  
- **Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
- **Measure:** Dissertation defense  
- **Outcome/Objective:** Original research in Financial Economics

**Responsible Person/Group:** Doctoral Faculty

**focus on theoretical literature**  
Teachers in the core PhD courses plan to spend more time on the theoretical literature and be sure to add assignments to help students comprehend them.

- **Established in Cycle:** 2013-14  
- **Implementation Status:** Planned  
- **Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**  
- **Measure:** Departmental Qualifying Exams  
- **Outcome/Objective:** Core knowledge of Financial Economics

**Projected Completion Date:** 12/2014  
**Responsible Person/Group:** Instructors in core PhD courses