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**Department of Economics**  
**David Nazarian College of Business and Economics**

**DATE:** April 8, 2019

**FROM:** Anton Lowenberg, Chair

**SUBJECT:** Economics Major Curriculum Changes, effective Fall 2019

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There are three main changes:

1. ECON 401 (*Macroeconomic Theory*) has been eliminated and replaced with ECON 312 (also titled *Macroeconomic Theory*). Like ECON 401, ECON 312 is a required course in the ECON major. However, since this is a 300-level course, the prerequisites are different. Specifically, the prerequisites for ECON 312 are: ECON 161; MATH 103 (or MATH 150A or MATH 255A) with a grade of “C” or better.

So, if you were planning to register for ECON 401 in the Fall, you should now register for ECON 312 instead.

2. ECON 320 (*Labor Economics*) has been changed to ECON 421 (also titled *Labor Economics*). This is an elective course in the ECON major. The prerequisites for ECON 421 are: ECON 310 with a grade of “C” or better; passing score (8 or higher) on the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam (UDWPE).

If you have already passed ECON 320, you may not enroll in ECON 421. (If you do so, you will be administratively dropped from the class.)

3. ECON 405, which was *International Economics*, has been changed to *International Trade*. The course now covers only trade theory and international trade policy. This is an elective course in the ECON major. The prerequisites for the new ECON 405 are: ECON 310 with a grade of “C” or better; passing score (8 or higher) on the UDWPE.

Since ECON 405 now covers only the trade component of international economics, we have created a new course to cover the financial and monetary components. The new course is ECON 403 (*Open-Economy Macroeconomics*). This course is also an elective in the ECON major. The prerequisites for ECON 403 are: ECON 310 with a grade of “C” or better; either ECON 311 or ECON 312; passing score (8 or higher) on the UDWPE.

ECON 403 will be offered in Fall 2019 and the new ECON 405 will be offered in Spring 2020.

Since ECON 401 has been replaced with a 300-level course (ECON 312), if your catalog year is 2019, you will now need to take *three* 400-level ECON electives instead of two. However, most of you fall under the 2018 or earlier catalogs, so you will still take just *two* 400-level electives.

While we feel that these changes overall are positive improvements that will help to promote student success in the Economics program, there is one unavoidable drawback: since ECON 320 and ECON 401 have been replaced with new courses, it will no longer be possible to re-take these courses for grade replacement. For example, if you have an “F” in ECON 401, you will need to take ECON 312, but your grade in ECON 312 will not replace the “F” in ECON 401 in calculating your overall and CSUN GPA. The same applies in enrolling in ECON 421 to re-take ECON 320.