UNIT OUTLINE
This unit is designed to familiarise students with some of the basic concepts and relationships of the discipline. It was developed to prepare students for undergraduate study in the academic discipline area of commerce/business and educate students as to the crucial role economic decisions have in society and how economic problems and issues dominate media and politics. By understanding Economics, students are empowered to participate effectively and knowledgeably in economic debate.

Successful completion of this unit will not be counted for academic credit in any future studies at Western Sydney University.

Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.

On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Define and explain basic economic concepts and relationships.
2. Interpret economic information presented in a variety of forms: text, graphs, statistics, illustrations, diagrams.
3. Integrate descriptive economics, economic theory and applied economics.
4. Select and organise economic information from a variety of sources for relevance and reliability.
5. Describe trends in Australia’s economic performance and discuss contemporary issues affecting this trend.
6. Explain the operation of government micro and macro-economic policies.
## Unit content

In this unit students will learn about:

- economic concepts and systems (including economic growth and its measurement)
- The circular flow and economic fluctuations
- The price mechanism
- Market structures
- The Australian financial system and money
- Financial institutions, money and interest, financial deregulation, monetary policy
- Economic policies
- Australia in the international economy and contemporary issues.

## Mode of delivery

This unit is taught on a face-to-face basis through four hours of classes per week over 12 teaching weeks.

## Online learning requirements

### Essential requirements

- **Essential text**
  - The College, *Economics student workbook*, Western Sydney University
  - The College, Sydney. [Online]

- **Further resources**

- **Essential equipment**
  - Calculator
  - Note pads
  - Ruler
ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Mandatory task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Intra-session exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Intra-session exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1–3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1–6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Research essay — in class</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1–6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1–6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit and announcements on vUWS.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College Assessment Policy.

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task (Terminology and concepts Test for this unit), they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

To pass the unit, students must:

- attempt/submit all assessments, and
- attain an overall mark of at least 50%.