

**RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
MAJOR IN ECONOMICS, IN BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BUSINESS**

Documents included:

1. Resolution to Discontinue Major in Economics, in Bachelor of Science Degree in Business
2. Supporting Documentation- Discontinue Major in Economics, in Bachelor of Science Degree in Business

**RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE  
MAJOR IN ECONOMICS, IN BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BUSINESS**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech has offered both a Bachelor of Science in Business with a Major in Economics and a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Economics since 1961; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Department of Economics became one of seven departments founding the College of Science; and

**WHEREAS**, the granting of two economic degrees in two separate colleges does not reflect national standards or a desirable organizational structure for the university; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech seeks to align its resources to reflect academic mission and resource efficacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the university will continue to offer a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Economics through the College of Science; and

**WHEREAS**, the students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Business with a Major in Economics have been notified of its discontinuance; and

**WHEREAS**, a teach-out plan has been developed to insure students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Business with a Major in Economics may complete and be awarded the Bachelor of Science in Business; and

**WHEREAS**, no new students will be admitted to the Bachelor of Science in Business with a Major in Economics after the entering cohort of Fall 2016 and the January 2017 change of major period;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Major in Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Business be discontinued effective spring 2022, with the last Major in Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Business be awarded in May 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending the discontinuance of the Major in Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Business at Virginia Tech be approved.

April 3, 2017



# VirginiaTech

Pamplin College of Business

Office of the Director of Advising, Curriculum and Governance  
 1046 Pamplin Hall (0209)  
 Blacksburg, VA 24061  
 (540) 231-6602  
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[www.pamplin.vt.edu/undergraduate-programs/](http://www.pamplin.vt.edu/undergraduate-programs/)

RE: Documentation for Discontinuation of BSBUS Economics:

To Whom It May Concern,

The Pamplin College of Business plans to discontinue the BSBUS Economics degree.

### **Background**

Virginia Tech has offered both a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics since 1961 and was housed in the College of Business. In 1989, the Economics department and its faculty moved to the College and Arts and Sciences, noting that its degree programs were more closely aligned to Arts and Sciences than to Business. Later, Economics became one of seven departments founding the College of Science in 2003. Throughout this time, the College of Business has offered the Bachelor of Science in Business with a major in Economics. However, Economics faculty and courses are located in the College of Science.

The granting of two economic degrees in two separate colleges does not reflect national standards or the organizational structure of the university. Virginia Tech and the Pamplin College of Business seek to align our resources to reflect academic mission and resource efficacy. The university will continue to offer the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics through the College of Science. The College of Science will have the opportunity, should they choose to pursue it, to offer a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Dean Robert Sumichrast supports the discontinuation of the BSBUS Economics degree (see attached letter). The Pamplin Undergraduate Studies and Policies Committee (USP) fully supports the college's decision to discontinue the BSBUS Economics degree offered by the Pamplin College of Business. The USP unanimously voted on April 25, 2016 to discontinue BSBUS Economics.

### **Rationale**

We frequently notice confusion and frustration on the part of students enrolled in the BSBUS Economics degree due to substantial differences in the first and second year curriculums of the College of Business and the College of Science. These include but are not limited to (1) different courses that meet the CLE requirements, (2) different grade requirements for various Business required core courses, (3) different number of times a student may repeat a course, (4) different addendums to Policy 91 regarding Progress toward Degree, and perhaps most impactful to students is (6) a wide variation in college standards of academic advising that includes policies, procedures, and practices.

Administrative and/or faculty/staff assistance is frequently needed outside the classroom to represent majors at events such as Orientation, New Student Meeting, Open Houses, Hokie Focus, Commencement, etc. Scheduling conflicts between the two colleges are not unusual and

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BSBUS Economics students notice when they are at Business events, but none of their major professors are in attendance. Too often the result is that BSBUS Economics students do not feel at home in either college.

The BSBUS Economics degree has low demand with excess capacity; therefore, the University categorizes it as an unrestricted major. All other majors in the College of Business are restricted, which creates a sense of disparity amongst our majors.

After reviewing the location of Economics degrees in 47 peer, aspirant, and other regional and national institutions, we found that 17 universities house Economics in a Business college. The most frequently noted location was in a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. If a BS Economics degree is to exist at Virginia Tech, then we believe the most viable location is the College of Science.

#### Business Degrees Awarded

Year	Business/All Majors	Business/ECON
2010-11	1142	28 (2.5%)
2011-12	1140	51 (4.5%)
2012-13	1061	56 (5.3%)
2013-14	1068	61 (5.7%)
2014-15	1146	42 (3.7%)

#### Teach Out Plan:

#### Last Term/Year

The last term that students will be able to complete the BSBUS Economics degree is May 2022. This will allow 6 years to complete the degree. The time to degree for students that entered Virginia Tech as First-time, Full-time Freshmen is as follows:

BSBUS Economics	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Number of First Majors	26	43	50	52	38
Mean Years to Degree	4.05	4.08	4.21	4.27	4.03

#### Lead Time

Approximately 130 current students are expected to graduate by May 2019. However, we have just accepted a new incoming class of freshmen and transfer students. The transfer students will easily meet the deadline. The freshmen will need the full four years to complete the degree (May 2020). To ensure that students with challenges can meet the deadline, we have extended the discontinuation of the major beyond the expected date for all students to graduate. The major will be discontinued after May 2022 graduation. We will no longer accept students to the BSBUS Economics major after the January 2017 change major period to ensure students can meet the deadline. This will allow the incoming students a chance to declare BSBUS Economics

as their major or add it as a second major. Admissions will not accept any freshmen or transfer students to BSBUS Economics for the fall 2017-2108 academic year.

### **“Stopped Out” Students**

The 38 students that have “stopped out” since Fall 2011 have been considered. There is a 6-year period in which students may return and complete their BSBUS Economics degree. These students will be notified in writing about the discontinuation of the major. However, students will have the option to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Economics through the College of Science. Additionally, a student that cannot complete the BSBUS Economics degree by May 2022, may transition to the BA Economics major or another viable major on campus. The Pamplin Undergraduate Programs academic advisors will assist first and second year students, while the Economics departmental advisor will assist third and fourth students through the transition process.

### **Communication Plan**

We have a communication plan in place. Current students will be notified by email concerning the discontinuation of the major. They will be notified of the feasibility of completing the major. A notice will be posted on our website as soon as 15-day review is complete to let all students know that the major will no longer accept students after the January 2017 change major period. We will also communicate this information with advisors throughout campus using the Advisor Listserv. Non-Pamplin students will be told about the discontinuation of BSBUS Economics during Non-Major Information Sessions held throughout the fall 2016 semester. Current students in business will be notified to change or declare BSBUS Economics if desired, or add BSBUS Economics as a second major during the January 2017 change major period. Finally, all “stopped out” students will be notified in writing by mail concerning the discontinuance of BSBUS Economics.

### **Other Considerations**

The business core classes will continue to be offered through the Pamplin College of Business, while Economics major specific courses will continue to be offered through the Economics department in the College of Science. Any student that chooses to complete a BA in Economics degree or any other degree at Virginia Tech, may choose to use their business courses toward a Business (BUSR) minor.

Jennifer L. Clevenger, Ph.D.  
Director of Advising, Curriculum and Governance

**PAMPLIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
 Economics Major  
 Checksheet Graduating in Calendar Year 2018  
 Bachelor of Science in Business**

University Policy 91 requires students to make satisfactory academic progress towards a degree, see page 3, in order to remain enrolled in the institution. Students are responsible for reading and understanding Policy 91 in accordance with Pamplin Policies (<http://www.undergrad.pamplin.vt.edu/advising/policy91>)

**FALL FRESHMEN YEAR**

ECON 2005, Micro Principles of Economics <sup>1</sup>	3 hours _____
MATH 1225, Calculus <sup>2</sup>	3 hours _____
MATH 1114, Linear Algebra <sup>2</sup>	2 hours _____
ENGL 1105, Freshmen English <sup>3</sup>	3 hours _____
Area 4: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery Lecture	3 hours _____
Area 4: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery Lab	1 hour _____
Total hours: 15 hours (13 hours if MATH 1114 is not taken)	

**SPRING FRESHMEN YEAR**

ECON 2006, Macro Principles of Economics <sup>1</sup>	3 hours _____
MATH 1226, Calculus <sup>2</sup>	3 hours _____
ACIS 1504, Intro to Business Information Systems <sup>4</sup>	3 hours _____
ENGL 1106, Freshmen English <sup>3</sup>	3 hours _____
Area 4: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery Lecture	3 hours _____
Area 4: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery Lab	1 hour _____
Total hours : 16 hours	

**FALL SOPHOMORE YEAR**

ECON 3104, Microeconomic Theory <sup>1</sup>	3 hours _____
ACIS 2115, Principles of Accounting <sup>4</sup>	3 hours _____
BIT 2405, Quantitative Methods <sup>1</sup>	3 hours _____
PSYC 1004 or SOC 1004, Intro to Psychology or Sociology	3 hours _____
Area 2: Ideas, Cultural Traditions and Values	3 hours _____
Total hours: 15 hours	

**SPRING SOPHOMORE YEAR**

ECON 3204, Macroeconomic Theory <sup>1</sup>	3 hours _____
ACIS 2116, Principles of Accounting <sup>4</sup>	3 hours _____
BIT 2406, Quantitative Methods <sup>1</sup>	3 hours _____
Area 7: Critical Issues in a Global Context	3 hours _____
Free Elective	3 hours _____
Total hours: 15 hours	

<sup>1</sup> ECON 2005, 2006, 3104, 3204, BIT 2405 and BIT 2406 must be completed with a minimum grade of a C for students majoring in Economics, Business. This is different than the college core requirement.

<sup>2</sup> MATH 1225, 1226, 1114 is the preferred sequence for CLE Area 5 and each course in the sequence must be passed with at least a C-. This sequence must be completed by those students that enter VT with credit for MATH 1225 and/or 1226. Students with prior credit for MATH 1225 and/or 1226 should not take MATH 1525 or 1526. Students that do not have prior credit for MATH 1225 or 1226 or fail to pass the Math Readiness Test for MATH 1225 should take MATH 1525-1526. MATH 1525 and MATH 1526 must be completed with at least a B-. The Undergraduate Advising Office in the Economics Department should be contacted before any substitutions are made for CLE Area 5.

<sup>3</sup> COMM 1015-1016 can be substituted for ENGL 1105-1106

<sup>4</sup> ACIS 1504, 2115, and 2116 must be completed with at least a C- as part of the College of Business Core.

FALL JUNIOR YEAR

ECON 3254, Applied Data Analysis	3 hours _____
ECON Elective <sup>5</sup>	3 hours _____
MGT 3304 Management Theory & Leadership Practice <sup>6</sup>	3 hours _____
MKTG 3104 Marketing Management <sup>6</sup>	3 hours _____
FIN 3104 Intro to Finance <sup>6</sup>	3 hours _____
Total hours: 15 hours	

SPRING JUNIOR YEAR

ECON Elective <sup>5</sup>	3 hours _____
ECON Elective <sup>5</sup>	3 hours _____
FIN 3054 Legal and Ethical Environment of Business or FIN 3074 Legal, Ethical, and Financial Issues for Entrepreneurs <sup>6</sup>	3 hours _____
Business Social Science <sup>7</sup>	3 hours _____
Free Elective	3 hours _____
Total hours: 18 hours	

FALL SENIOR YEAR

ECON Elective <sup>5</sup>	3 hours _____
ECON Elective <sup>5</sup>	3 hours _____
BIT 3414 Operations and Supply Chain Management <sup>6</sup>	3 hours _____
Free Electives	6 hours _____
Total hours: 15 hours	

SPRING SENIOR YEAR

MGT 4394, Strategic Management <sup>6</sup>	3 hours _____
Business Social Science <sup>7</sup>	3 hours _____
Area 6: Creativity and Artistic Expression	1 or 3 hours _____
Free Electives	7 or 9 hours _____
Total hours: 14 to 18 hours	

TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED FOR DEGREE: 125 CREDIT HOURS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS POLICY 91

<sup>5</sup> ECON Electives are any 3000 or 4000 level ECON course except ECON 3104, 3204, 3254, 4754 (Internships), 4964 (Field Study), and 4974 and 4974H (Independent Study).

ECON 4304 and 4994 or 4994H cannot be used as ECON Electives unless the Department of Economics grants approval.

<sup>6</sup> A student must achieve a grade no lower than a C- in the upper level core business courses (BIT 3414, FIN 3054 or FIN 3074, FIN 3104, MGT 3304, MGT 4394, and MKTG 3104). A grade of C- or better must be earned in BIT 3414, FIN 3104, MGT 3304, and MKTG 3104 before taking MGT 4394. FIN 3054 or 3074 may be taken at the same time as MGT 4394; however, the student must earn the specified grade or repeat the course and earn a C- or better before a business degree can be earned.

<sup>7</sup> To complete the Social Science Requirement, select from courses in the following.

Geography – Any GEOG course

History – Except HIST 1024, 1025, 1026, and 2054

International Studies – Any HIST course

Political Science – Except PSCI 3015-3016

Psychology – Any PSYC course

Sociology – Any SOC course

CLE Area 3 – Any CLE Area 3 course except ECON 2005 and 2006. ECON 2005 and 2006 must be used to satisfy CLE Area 3. Any other ECON course used to complete the Social Science Requirement cannot be used to complete a Major Requirement.

University Policy 91 requires students to make satisfactory academic progress towards a degree in order to remain enrolled in the institution. Students are responsible for reading and understanding Policy 91 in accordance with Pamplin Policies (<http://www.undergrad.pamplin.vt.edu/advising/policy91>)

ACIS 1504, Introduction to Business Information Systems	(3) _____
ACIS 2115, Principles of Accounting	(3) _____
ACIS 2116, Principles of Accounting	(3) _____
BIT 2405, Quantitative Methods (department requires at least a C)	(3) _____
BIT 2406, Quantitative Methods (department requires at least a C)	(3) _____
ECON 2005, Principles of Microeconomics (department requires at least a C)	(3) _____
ECON 2006, Principles of Macroeconomics (department requires at least a C)	(3) _____

MATH 1225, 1226, and 1114 (department requires at least a C- in each)	(11) _____
Or MATH 1525-1526 (department requires at least a B- in each)	(6) _____

Note: MATH 1225, 1226, 1114 must be completed if student receives AP or TR credit for MATH 1225 upon entrance to Virginia Tech. MATH 1225 cannot be substituted for MATH 1525. MATH 1226 cannot be substituted for MATH 1526.

Achieve a minimum GPA of at least 2.000 in the combination of courses previously listed

Students who have not met the requirements will be notified upon reaching 60 credits (72 hours for Pamplin transfers) that they have one semester of enrollment (either Fall or Spring) to rectify any deficiencies. Failing to do so will result in a student being required to transfer to another college at Virginia Tech. This policy is strictly enforced.

**DEPARTMENT PROGRESS TOWARD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

University policy requires that students who are making satisfactory progress toward a degree meet minimum criteria toward the University CLE, College of Business Core, and toward the degree in Economics.

1. In addition to the College of Business Policy 91 requirements, the Department of Economics requires that a student upon having attempted 72 semester hours (including transfer, advanced placement, advanced standing, credit by examination, course withdrawal), students must:

a. have completed

ECON 2005 Principles of Economics (Micro)	3 hrs
ECON 2006 Principles of Economics (Macro)	3 hrs
ECON 3104 Microeconomic Theory	3 hrs
ECON 3204 Macroeconomic Theory	3 hrs
STAT 3005 or BIT 2406	3 hrs
Total Hours	15 hrs

b. ECON 2005, 2006, 3104, 3204, and STAT 3005 or BIT 2406 must be completed with a grade of C or better. These courses cannot be repeated more than once, including course withdrawals

c. be registered in at least two 3-credit ECON courses during each on-campus semester (Fall and Spring) of the regular academic year unless they have completed all ECON courses required for graduation.

d. achieve an in-major GPA of 2.000

e. cannot repeat more than 3 ECON courses in the major

f. a student who does not make satisfactory progress toward degree will be required to change their major out of Economics.

2. Upon having attempted 96 semester hours, students must have an in-major grade point average of 2.0 or above.

### MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

#### ECON 2005 Microeconomic Principles

ECON 2005 must be completed with a grade of a C or better.

#### ECON 2006 Macroeconomic Principles

ECON 2006 must be completed with a grade of a C or better. In order to take ECON 2006 the student must complete ECON 2005 with a C or better as a prerequisite.

#### ECON 3104 Microeconomic Theory

ECON 3104 must be completed with a grade of C or better at Virginia Tech. In order to take ECON 3104 the student must complete ECON 2005 with a C or better and one of the following

- C- or better in MATH 1205, 1206, and 1114 or MATH 1225, 1226, and 2114
- B- or better in MATH 1015, 1016, and 2015 or 1014, 1025, and 1026
- B- or better in MATH 1525 and 1526

ECON 2025H will be substituted for ECON 3104 when the course is completed with at least a C.

#### ECON 3204 Macroeconomic Theory

ECON 3204 must be completed with a grade of a C or better at Virginia Tech. In order to take ECON 3204 the student must complete ECON 2006 and 3104 with a C or better in each course. ECON 2026H will be substituted for ECON 3204 when the course is completed with at least a C.

#### ECON 3254 Analysis of Economic Data or ECON 4304 Econometrics

ECON 3254 requires STAT 3005 or BIT 2406 be completed with at least a C before taking this course. This course must be completed at Virginia Tech. ECON 3254 cannot be taken after ECON 4304 is completed.

ECON 4304 requires that STAT 3005 be completed with at least a C before taking this course. Students planning on either graduate work or a career in data oriented employment are strongly encouraged to complete ECON 4304.

### OVERALL AND IN-MAJOR GPA

Students must have a 2.0 overall GPA and 2.0 in-major GPA to graduate. Only ECON courses count toward the in-major GPA.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students who completed 2 years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language in high school have completed this requirement. Students who did not complete 2 years of a foreign, classical, or sign language in high school must complete one of the following

- Complete FL 1105-1106 or the equivalent in college. These 6 hours do not count toward the 125 required for graduation.
- Complete either SPAN 1114 or GER 1114. These 4 hours do not count towards the 125 required for graduation.

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA  
INTENT TO DISCONTINUE AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM  
COVER SHEET**

1. Institution Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	2. Type of Program (Check one): Degree program <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate program <input type="checkbox"/> Degree/Certificate Designation <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Program name/title Business, Economics	
3. Degree/certificate designation BS BUS	4. CIP code 52.0601
5. Degree program approval date by Council Unknown	
6. Certificate program acknowledgement date by SCHEV	
7. Date (semester/year) beyond which no new enrollments will be accepted Spring, 2016	8. Desired termination date for reporting degrees (semester and year) Fall, 2022
9. For community colleges: local board discontinuance date	10. Board of Visitors or State Board for Community Colleges discontinuance date
11. <b>For Critical Shortage Area Only.</b> Check all that apply. Explain in attached narrative.  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of student demand   <input type="checkbox"/> State-wide public program duplication   <input type="checkbox"/> Other         </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of market demand   <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of institutional resources         </div> </div>	
12. List of constituents impacted by action. Currently enrolled undergraduate students.	
13. If collaborative or joint program, identify collaborating institution(s). <b>Note:</b> Each collaborating institution must submit a separate "Intent to Discontinue" form.	
14. Name, title, e-mail address, and telephone number(s) of person(s) other than the institution's chief academic officer who may be contacted by or may be expected to contact Council staff regarding the discontinuance. Candace Clemenz, Associate Dean, Pamplin College of Business, <a href="mailto:clemenz@vt.edu">clemenz@vt.edu</a> , 540.231.6602 <b>UNIVERSITY SCHEV LIAISON CONTACT INFO HERE</b>	

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Intent to Discontinue the BS in Business, Economics**

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## **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Intent to Discontinue the BS in Business, Economics**

### **Degree Information**

Business, Economics, BSBUS, CIP 52.0601

### **Final Term for Degree**

Fall 2021

### **Background**

Virginia Tech has offered both a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics since 1961 and was housed in the College of Business. In 1989, the Economics department and its faculty moved to the College and Arts and Sciences, noting that its degree programs are more closely aligned to Arts and Sciences than to Business. Later, Economics became one of seven departments founding the College of Science in 2003. Throughout this time, the College of Business has offered the BSBUS Economics. However, Economics faculty and courses are located in the College of Science.

The granting of two economic degrees in two separate colleges does not reflect the national standards nor the organizational structure of the university. Virginia Tech and the Pamplin College of Business seek to align our resources to reflect academic mission and resource efficacy. The university will continue to offer the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics through the College of Science. The College of Science will have the opportunity, should they choose to pursue it, to offer a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

The BSBUS ECON degree has had low demand for many years; therefore, the Business, Economics major is unrestricted. Students are also often frustrated that ECON has substantially different requirements than the rest of the majors in business during the first and second years, as they are a combination of business and science requirements. Administrative and/or faculty/staff assistance is frequently needed outside the classroom but scheduling conflicts between the two colleges make attendance difficult.

Dean Robert Sumichrast supports the discontinuation of the BSBUS Economics degree (see letter in Appendix A). The Pamplin Undergraduate Studies and Policies Committee (USP) fully supports the college's decision to discontinue the BSBUS Economics degree offered by the Pamplin College of Business. The USP unanimously voted on April 25, 2016 to discontinue Business, Economics. Further, the College of Science supports this discontinuance proposal, as reflected in a letter from Associate Dean Gary Long (Appendix B).

### **Rationale**

The BSBUS Economics degree has low demand with excess capacity; therefore, the University categorizes it as an unrestricted major. Because all other majors in the College of Business are restricted, a difficult situation is created when students who are not academically competitive to be accepted into Business majors enter Economics as a back door to a Pamplin major. BS/BUS ECON students have access to enroll in Business courses, occupying seats that are otherwise needed for qualified Business majors.

### Business Degrees Awarded

Year	Business/All Majors	Business/ECON
2010-11	1142	28 (2.5%)
2011-12	1140	51 (4.5%)
2012-13	1061	56 (5.3%)
2013-14	1068	61 (5.7%)
2014-15	1146	42 (3.7%)

We frequently notice confusion and frustration on the part of students enrolled in the BS/BUS ECON degree due to differences in the first and second year curriculums of the College of Business and the College of Science. These include but are not limited to (1) different courses that meet the CLE requirements, (2) different grade requirements for various Business required core courses, (3) different number of times a student may repeat a course, (4) different addendums to Policy 91 regarding Progress toward Degree, and perhaps most impactful to students is (6) a wide variation in college standards of academic advising that includes policies, procedures, and practices.

Administrative and/or faculty/staff assistance is frequently needed outside the classroom to represent majors at events such as Orientation, New Student Meeting, Open Houses, Hokie Focus, Commencement, etc. Scheduling conflicts between the two colleges are not unusual and BS/BUS ECON students notice when they are at Business events, but none of their major professors are in attendance. Too often the result is that BS/BUS ECON students do not feel at home in either college.

After reviewing the location of Economics degrees in 47 peer, aspirant, and other regional and national institutions, we found that 17 universities house Economics in a Business college. The most frequently noted location was in a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. If an ECON degree/major is to exist at Virginia Tech, we believe the most viable location is the College of Science.

### Teach-out Plan

The last term that students will be able to complete this B.S. degree is May 2022. This will allow 5 full years to complete the degree. The time to degree for students that entered Virginia tech as First-time, Full-time Freshmen is as follows:

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
ECON					
Number of First Majors	26	43	50	52	38
Mean Years to Degree	4.05	4.08	4.21	4.27	4.03

### Lead Time

Approximately 130 current students are expected to graduate by May 2019. However, we have just accepted a new incoming class of freshmen and transfer students. The transfer students will easily meet the deadline. The freshmen will need the full four years to complete the degree (May 2020). To ensure that students with challenges can meet the deadline, we have extended the

discontinuation of the major beyond the expected date for all students to graduate. The major will be discontinued after May 2022 graduation. We will no longer accept students to the ECON major after the January 2017 change major period to ensure students can meet the deadline.

We will no longer accept any internal change majors or second majors to the ECON major after the January 2017 change major period. This will allow the incoming students a chance to declare ECON as their major or add it as a second major. Admissions will not accept any freshmen or transfer students to ECON for the fall 2017-2108 academic year.

#### “Stopped Out” Students

The 38 students that have “stopped out” since 201109 have been considered. There is a 6-year period in which students may return and complete their BS/BUS ECON degree. These students will be notified in writing about the discontinuation of the major. However, students will have the option to complete a BA in Economics through the College of Science (ECAS). Additionally, a student that cannot complete the ECON degree by May 2022, may transition to the ECAS major or another viable major on campus. The Pamplin Undergraduate Programs advisors will assist students through the transition process.

#### Communication Plan

We have a communication plan in place. Current students will be notified by email concerning the discontinuation of the major. They will be notified of the feasibility of completing the major. A notice will be posted on our website as soon as 15-day review is complete to let all students know that the major will no longer accept students after the January 2017 change major period. We will also communicate this information with advisors throughout campus using the Advisor Listserv. Non-Pamplin students will be told about the discontinuation of ECON during Non-Major Information Sessions held throughout the fall 2016 semester. Current students in business will be notified to change or declare ECON if desired, or add ECON as a second major during the January 2017 change major period. Finally, all “stopped out” students will be notified in writing by mail concerning the discontinuance of ECON.

#### Other Considerations

The business core classes will continue to be offered through the Pamplin College of Business, while economics major specific courses will continue to be offered through the Economics department in the College of Science. Any student that chooses to complete an ECAS degree, may choose to use their business courses toward a Business (BUSR) minor.

Appendix A: Support Letter, Dean Sumichrast, Pamplin College of Business



**Robert T. Sumichrast, Dean**  
 1030 Pamplin Hall (0209)  
 880 West Campus Drive  
 Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
 540/231-6601  
 E-mail: busdean@vt.edu www.pamplin.vt.edu

TO: Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
 FROM: Robert T. Sumichrast  
 DATE: September 13, 2016  
 RE: Bachelor of Science in Business with a major in Economics  
 (BSBUS Economics)

I fully support the discontinuation of the BSBUS Economics. Additionally, the Pamplin Undergraduate Studies and Policies Committee unanimously agreed to support the discontinuation of BSBUS Economics on April 25, 2016.

I support the discontinuation for the following reasons:

- Economics faculty and courses are located in the College of Science. Retaining the BSBUS Economics in Pamplin while offering a BA Economics in the College of Science has caused confusion.
- The College of Science desires to begin offering a BS Economics if Pamplin drops its BSBUS Economics.
- After a review of the location of Economics degrees in 47 peer, aspirant, and other regional and national institutions, we found that only 17 universities house Economics in a Business college. The most frequently noted location was in a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In 2015, Pamplin invested in a professional, centralized academic advising system for all of its majors. During the first year of implementation, one measure of student advising satisfaction increased from 50% to 80%. The Department of Economics has retained an academic advisor and continues to perform a substantial amount of advising. Some students find this dual system confusing.

- Administrative and/or faculty/staff assistance is frequently needed outside the classroom to represent majors at events such as Orientation, New Student Meeting, Open Houses, Hokie Focus, Commencement, etc. Scheduling conflicts between the two colleges are not unusual. Too often the result is that BSBUS Economics students do not have the full support of either college.
- The BSBUS Economics degree has low demand with excess capacity; therefore, the University categorizes it as an unrestricted major. At times, this creates confusion and frustration for students since all other majors in Pamplin are restricted.

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- Pamplin's academic advisors and others in the college report confusion on the part of students enrolled in the BSBUS Economics due to substantial differences in the first and second year curriculums of the College of Business and the College of Science.

The college has a teach out plan, a "stopped out" student plan, and a communication plan in place for working with our current BSBUS Economics students. The last degree granted will be in May 2022.

Robert T. Sumichrast, Dean

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RTS', written over the printed name of Robert T. Sumichrast.

RTS/jc

Appendix B: Support Letter, Associate Dean Long, College of Science



College of Science

**Gary L. Long**  
**Office of the Dean**  
 Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
 voice: 540/231-7575 fax: 540/231-3380  
 e-mail: glong@vt.edu

TO : Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
 FROM: Gary L. Long  
 DATE: September 20, 2016  
 RE: Discontinuation of BSBUS Economics

The College of Science Curriculum Review Committee (COSCUR), the Department of Economics, and the Office of the Dean of Science support the proposed discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science degree in Business with a major in Economics from the Pamplin School of Business. We agree with the reasons for discontinuing the BSBUS degree (see letters from Dean Sumichrast and Dr. Clevenger) and support their proposed plan for allowing current students to finish their BSBUS degrees.

As noted in Dean Sumichrast's letter, the College of Science is beginning the governance process for the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Economics. The proposed major will address the pedagogic needs of students wishing to pursue graduate studies in Economics and/or directly enter the workforce in the area of Economics. The new degree would complement our existing Bachelor or Art degree in Economics (ECAS) and would reside under the current SCHEV approved ECAS degree. It is hoped that this proposed degree in Science and forthcoming resolution from Pamplin would closely follow each other in governance.

At this juncture, the College of Science is also developing plans to add a business track to its existing BA degree. The new track would build on the historical relationship of cross-college course offerings between the Pamplin College of Business and the College of (Arts and) Science. Discussions will begin this semester to identify the courses that would frame the Business track. This proposed cooperation is an essential part of the College of Science's agreement to support the discontinuation of the Pamplin degree. For students to best understand and master business theory and practice, they must have some level of instruction in Business by the Pamplin faculty.

The College believes the changes being presented in the discontinuation of the BSBUS degree and the emergence of a BS Economics major and new track in our BA degree would best serve both colleges. We believe this emergence would resonate with the new model of XT degrees/majors/minors that the campus is pursuing. We believe it would best serve the interests of our current and future students.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Long  
 Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction

Sudipata Sarangi  
 Professor and Chair of Economics

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