

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS (BECON)**

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the first year of study of the 4-year curriculum in the academic year 2012-13 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)

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### **Admission to the degree**

- BE 1** To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Economics, candidates shall
- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
  - (c) satisfy all the requirements of the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow and the syllabuses of the degree.
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### **Period of study**

**BE 2** The curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Economics shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, spreading over four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. The maximum period of registration is equivalent to a period which is 150% of the curriculum's normative period of study. Candidates shall in any case be required to complete the curriculum within six academic years, unless otherwise required or permitted by the Board of the Faculty.

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### **Curriculum requirements and progression in curriculum**

- BE 3** To complete the curriculum, candidates
- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG 5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
  - (b) shall enroll and attempt examination in not fewer than 240 credits of courses, in the manner specified in the syllabuses;
  - (c) shall normally be required to enroll in at least 60 credits of courses in an academic year<sup>1</sup>, in a manner as prescribed in the syllabuses;
  - (d) shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester), or except in the last semester of study when candidates may be required to take fewer than 24 credits to satisfy the outstanding curriculum requirements;
  - (e) may, of their own volition, take further credits during the regular or summer semesters<sup>2</sup>, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year<sup>1</sup>;
  - (f) may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, exceed 72 credits in an academic year<sup>1</sup> provided that the total number of credits taken shall not exceed 288 credits; or where courses taken to make up for failed credits are inclusive, the total number of credits shall not exceed 432 credits;
  - (g) may select not more than 12 credits of courses in the summer semester<sup>2</sup>, unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty.
  - (h) shall select courses accumulating 72 credits to declare a major in Economics, as prescribed in the syllabuses, and to take electives to make up the balance of 240 credits;
  - (i) may be required by the Board of the Faculty to take a reduced study load of not fewer than 24 credits per semester if their academic progression is unsatisfactory.
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## **Advanced standing**

**BE 4** Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully, in accordance with UG 2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. The maximum number of advanced standing credits that may be granted is up to one-half the number of credits required for the award of the degree. Advanced standing credits granted shall not be included in the calculation of the Semester, Year or Cumulative GPA, nor taken into consideration for the honours classification of the degree to be awarded.

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## **Exemption**

**BE 5** Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from any of the requirements in the syllabuses by the Board of the Faculty. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

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## **Selection of courses**

**BE 6** Candidates shall select courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabuses before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made during an add-drop period designated for each semester, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidates. Requests for changes after the designated add-drop period of a semester shall not be considered, and candidates withdrawing from any course without permission after the designated add-drop period of a semester shall be given an F grade.

**BE 7** Candidates shall not be permitted to select a course for which the failed course forms a prerequisite unless permission is given by the department concerned to sit a qualifying examination in the failed course and satisfy the examiners in this.

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## **Assessment**

### **BE 8**

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any one or any combination of the following manners: written examinations or tests, continuous assessment of performance, laboratory work, field work, research or project reports, or in any other manner as specified in the syllabuses.
  - (b) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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## **Grades**

**BE 9** Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG 8 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

**BE 10** Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat courses for which they have received a pass grade for the purpose of upgrading.

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### **Absence from examination**

**BE 11** Failure to take the examination as scheduled will automatically result in course failure under normal circumstances. Candidates who are unable, because of illness or other acceptable reason, to be present at any examinations of a course, may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination to be held not later than the beginning of the first semester of the following academic year. Failure to attend the supplementary examination as arranged shall automatically result in course failure. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

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### **Failure in examination**

**BE 12** Candidates are required to make up for a failed course in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for an elective course, taking another course in lieu of the failed course and satisfying the assessment requirements.

**BE 13** The maximum number of attempts for a particular course or requirement is three.

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### **Unsatisfactory performance**

**BE 14** Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G 12 and UG 4(e) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula if they have:

- (a) failed to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
  - (b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
  - (c) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in BE 2.
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### **Award of degree**

**BE 15** To be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Economics, candidates shall have

- (a) achieved a Cumulative GPA of 1.0 or above;
  - (b) accumulated a minimum of 240 credits and passed all the compulsory courses required in the syllabuses; and
  - (c) satisfied the requirements in UG 5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.
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### **Degree classification**

**BE 16**

- (a) Honours classification shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in

accordance with the following Cumulative GPA (CGPA) scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying equal weighting:

<u>Class of honours</u>	<u>CGPA range</u>
First Class	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Cumulative GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Cumulative GPA falls below the range stipulated in BE 16(a) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
- (c) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.

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<sup>1</sup> An 'academic year' comprises two regular semesters, with dates as prescribed by the Senate each year. A 'summer semester' may be organised in addition to the two regular semesters.

<sup>2</sup> Candidates are normally not allowed to take summer course(s) in their final-year of study.

## SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS

This syllabus applies to candidates admitted to the first year of study of the 4-year curriculum in the academic year 2015-16 and thereafter.

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1. Candidates must enroll and attempt examination in not fewer than 240 credits of courses in accordance with the regulations and the syllabuses. In addition, the 240 credits of courses should be completed in the following manner:

UG 5 requirements [54 credits]	
Languages*	18 credits
HKU Common Core Curriculum*	36 credits
Major in Economics [72 credits]	
- Core courses	60 credits
- Disciplinary economics electives	12 credits
Free Electives [114 credits]	114 credits
Total credits for degree programme	240 credits

2. To fulfill the graduation requirement of this degree as specified by the Board of the Faculty of Business and Economics in accordance with UG 5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula, candidates must satisfactorily complete the credits of courses identified by an asterisk(\*). Those courses include the following areas of study: English language enhancement (12 credits), Chinese language enhancement (6 credits) and Common Core courses (36 credits), and successful completion of a capstone experience.
3. The Common Core courses are categorized under four Areas of Inquiry (AoI): Scientific and Technological Literacy, Humanities, Global Issues, and China: Culture, State and Society. Candidates must complete a total of 36 credits, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits.
4. The following courses are designated as Faculty Core courses: ACCT1101, ECON1210, FINA1310 and a statistics course, as prescribed in the syllabus. Candidates are not required to re-take Faculty Core courses where any of these courses form part of the requirements of a second major offered by the Faculty of Business of Economics, however, candidates must complete an equivalent number of credits of free electives in lieu of the Faculty Core courses.
5. The courses listed in the syllabus will not necessarily be offered every year.
6. For courses offered by the School of Economics and Finance, the final examination is normally 2 hours in length. Final grading will normally be determined by the final examination (30-60%) and coursework (40-70%).
7. Candidates majoring in Economics and Finance are required to take not fewer than 84 credits of advanced level courses from those listed in the BEcon&Fin syllabus. 36 of the 84 credits are core courses inclusive of ECON2210, ECON2220, ECON2280, ECON4200 (capstone course), FINA2320 and FINA2322. The disciplinary electives in the BEcon&Fin curriculum are grouped into List A (disciplinary economics electives) and List B (disciplinary finance electives). Students must select 24 credits from List A and 24 credits from List B for the Economics major and Finance major, respectively.
8. Candidates must take courses in the year of study indicated in the syllabus.
9. Candidates may select up to four courses offered under the syllabus for the Master of Economics (MEcon) degree as third or fourth year economics electives in List A, subject to

availability and the approval of the Director of the School of Economics and Finance. Each of these MEcon courses carries 6 credits, unless otherwise specified.

10. Candidates should take note of any impermissible combinations of majors/minors listed in the document “Major/Minor Programmes offered by FBE” for the year concerned.
11. Candidates are not permitted to enroll in courses where significant portions of the course contents overlap with each other, or where the courses are mutually exclusive.
12. Each candidate shall be required to take an English Proficiency Test at two different junctures: firstly in Year 1 and secondly in the final or penultimate year of study.

## 1. UG 5 requirements [54 credits]

### (a) Languages\* [18 credits]

Course code	Course title	Year of study	Credits
CAES1000 <sup>#</sup>	Core University English*	1	6
CAES9920	Academic Communication for Business and Economics*	2	6
CBBA9003 <sup>^</sup>	Practical Chinese for BEcon/BEcon&Fin/BSc(QFin) students* <b>or</b>	3	6
CUND9002 <sup>^</sup>	Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society <b>or</b>	1 or 2 or 3	
CUND9003 <sup>^</sup>	Cantonese for Non-Cantonese speaking students	1 or 2 or 3	

<sup>#</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5\*\* in English Language in the HKDSE or equivalent are exempted but must take a free elective in lieu of this course.<sup>^</sup> Putonghua-speaking students must take CUND9002 or CUND9003. Students who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take CBBA9003 can apply to the Faculty to take a credit-bearing Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese (especially for international and exchange students) in lieu of CBBA9003. If a credit-bearing Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese is taken in lieu of CBBA 9003, it may be taken in any year of study.

### (b) HKU Common Core Curriculum\* [36 credits]

Course code	Course title	Year of study	Credits
CCxxxxxx	3 CC courses in any three Areas of Inquiry*	1	18
CCxxxxxx	2 CC courses in any two Areas of Inquiry*	2	12
CCxxxxxx	1 CC course in any Area of Inquiry*	3	6

## 2. Major in Economics [72 credits]

Course code	Course title	Year of study	Credits
<i>Introductory Level Courses</i>			
ACCT1101	Introduction to financial accounting <sup>1,4</sup>	1	6
ECON1210	Introductory microeconomics <sup>4</sup>	1	6
ECON1220	Introductory macroeconomics	1	6
FINA1310	Corporate finance <sup>2,4</sup>	1	6
<i>Mathematics requirement<sup>3</sup> - choose one of the following:</i>			
MATH1009	Basic mathematics for business and economics <b>or</b>	1	6
MATH1011	University mathematics I <b>or</b>		
MATH1013	University mathematics II		
<i>Statistics requirement<sup>4</sup> - choose one of the following:</i>			
ECON1280	Analysis of economic data <b>or</b>	1 or 2	6
STAT1603	Introductory statistics		

<i>Advanced Level Courses</i>			
ECON2210	Intermediate microeconomics	2 or 3	6
ECON2220	Intermediate macroeconomics	2 or 3	6
ECON2280	Introductory econometrics	2 or 3	6
ECON4200	Senior seminar in economics and finance* (Capstone course)	4	6
ECONxxxx	Disciplinary economics electives	2 or 3 or 4	12

**3. Free Electives [114 credits]** – any courses except Common Core courses.

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Note:

1. The course shall be taken in first year first semester.
  2. The course shall be taken in first year second semester.
  3. Candidates are strongly advised to take MATH1009. Only if candidates have timetable clash would they be suggested to take MATH1011 or MATH1013. Candidates who have gained a Level 3 or above in HKDSE Mathematics or equivalent are required to take MATH1011, and candidates who have gained a Level 3 or above in HKDSE Mathematics Module 1 or 2 or equivalent are required to take MATH1013. Candidates who have taken MATH1013 or equivalent shall be granted exemption from the mathematics requirement and must take a free elective of the same credit value in lieu of the Mathematics requirement.
  4. Candidates having taken the Faculty Core courses (ACCT1101, ECON1210, FINA1310 and a prescribed statistics course) in fulfillment of the requirements of a first major offered by the Faculty are required to take an equivalent 24 credits of free electives in lieu of these courses.
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**REFERENCE TABLE**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Lang.</b>	<b>Common Core</b>	<b>Major in Economics</b>	<b>Free Electives</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>I</b>	6 credits	18 credits	30 credits	6 credits	60 credits
<b>II</b>	6 credits	12 credits	24 credits	18 credits	60 credits
<b>III</b>	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits	42 credits	60 credits
<b>IV</b>	-	-	12 credits	48 credits	60 credits
<b>Total</b>	18 credits	36 credits	72 credits	114 credits	240 credits

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## DISCIPLINARY ECONOMICS ELECTIVES (LIST A)

Course code	Course title	Credits
ECON2213	The economics of property rights	6
ECON2214	Games and decisions	6
ECON2216	Industrial organization	6
ECON2223	Public finance	6
ECON2225	Economics of population changes	6
ECON2232	Economics of human resources	6
ECON2233	The economics of law	6
ECON2234	Transportation economics	6
ECON2235	Project evaluation	6
ECON2242	Theories of investment	6
ECON2244	Economics of banking	6
ECON2246	The economics of finance	6
ECON2248	Finance and development	6
ECON2249	Foreign trade and investment in China	6
ECON2252	Theory of international trade	6
ECON2253	International macroeconomics	6
ECON2254	Trade, investment and development in APEC economies	6
ECON2255	The economic system of Hong Kong	6
ECON2262	Economic development	6
ECON2264	Economic development of China	6
ECON2265	Investment, technology and economic growth	6
ECON2266	Urban economics	6
ECON2272	History of economic thought	6
ECON2273	Economic history in China	6
ECON2275	Political economy of public policy	6
ECON2276	State, law and the economy	6
ECON2277	Comparative economic systems	6
ECON2278	Great events in history: an economic analysis	6
ECON2284	Mathematical methods in economics	6
ECON2285	Mathematical economics	6
ECON2292	Current economic affairs	6
ECON3215	Uncertainty and information	6
ECON3219	Selected topics in price theory	6
ECON3222	Monetary economics	6
ECON3224	Health economics	6
ECON3229	Topics in macroeconomics	6
ECON3243	Capital theory	6
ECON3283	Economic forecasting	6
ECON3293	Reading course	6
ECON4294	Dissertation	12

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