

**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 2020-21 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 comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG 5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
  - (c) shall enroll and attempt examination in not fewer than 240 credits of courses, in the manner specified in the syllabuses;
  - (d) 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;
  - (e) 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;
  - (f) 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>;
  - (g) 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;
  - (h) 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;
  - (i) shall select courses accumulating 78 credits to declare a major in Economics, as prescribed in the syllabuses, and to take electives to make up the balance of 240 credits; and
  - (j) 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 GPA nor taken into consideration for the honours classification of the degree to be awarded unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

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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) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
  - (c) 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** Candidates who are unable, because of illness, 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. 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.
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### **Unsatisfactory performance**

**BE 13** 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; or
  - (d) failed a particular course or requirement three times.
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### **Award of degree**

**BE 14** To be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Economics, candidates shall have

- (a) achieved a Graduation 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 15

- (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 Graduation GPA (GGPA) scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values<sup>3</sup>:

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

- (b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation 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 Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in BE 15(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.

<sup>3</sup> For students in the 2017-18 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all four Areas of Inquiry), or all six courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA.

**SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS  
[BECON]**

This syllabus applies to candidates admitted to the first year of study of the 4-year curriculum in the academic year 2021-22 and thereafter.

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 [78 credits]	
- Core courses	60 credits
- Economics disciplinary electives	18 credits
Free Electives [108 credits]	108 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): “Science, Technology, and Big Data”, “Arts and 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 Faculty of Business and Economics, 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%) except for final project/final papers which will be assessed by 100% coursework.
7. Candidates majoring in Economics are required to take not fewer than 42 credits of advanced level courses from those listed in the BEcon syllabus. 24 of the 42 credits are core courses inclusive of ECON2210, ECON2220, ECON2280 and ECON4200 (capstone course). The advanced level disciplinary electives in the BEcon curriculum are grouped into List A (economics disciplinary electives). Students must select 18 credits from List A for the Economics major.
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 disciplinary electives in List A, subject to availability and the approval of the BEcon/BEcon&Fin Programme Director and the MEcon Programme Director. Each of these MEcon courses carries 6 credits, unless otherwise specified. Candidates should satisfy the requirements prescribed by the Faculty of Business and

Economics.

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.

## 1. UG 5 requirements [54 credits]

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

<i>Course code</i>	<i>Course title</i>	<i>Year of study</i>	<i>Credits</i>
CAES1000 <sup>#</sup>	Core University English*	1	6
CAES9920	Academic communication for business and economics*	2	6
CBBA9003 <sup>^</sup> <i>or</i>	Practical Chinese for BEcon/BEcon&Fin/BSc(QFin) students* <i>or</i>	3	6
CUND9002 <sup>^</sup> <i>or</i>	Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society <i>or</i>	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 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see *Regulation UG 6*.

<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 should write to the Board of the Faculty to apply for exemption from the Chinese language requirement and take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students, or take a free elective course, in lieu of CBBA9003. If a Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese or a free elective course is taken in lieu of CBBA 9003, it may be taken in any year of study.

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

<i>Course code</i>	<i>Course title</i>	<i>Year of study</i>	<i>Credits</i>
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 [78 credits]

<i>Course code</i>	<i>Course title</i>	<i>Year of study</i>	<i>Credits</i>
<b>Faculty Core Courses – complete all of the following courses:</b>			
ACCT1101	Introduction to financial accounting <sup>1</sup>	1	6
ECON1210	Introductory microeconomics	1	6
FINA1310	Corporate finance <sup>2</sup>	1	6
<b>Statistics requirement – choose one of the following:</b>			
ECON1280 <i>or</i>	Analysis of economic data <i>or</i>	1 or 2	6
STAT1603	Introductory statistics		
<b>Disciplinary Core Courses – complete all of the following courses:</b>			
ECON1220	Introductory macroeconomics	1	6
<b>Mathematics requirement<sup>3</sup> - choose one of the following:</b>			
MATH1009 <i>or</i>	Basic mathematics for business and economics <i>or</i>	1	6
MATH1013	University mathematics II		
ECON2210	Intermediate microeconomics	2 or 3	6
ECON2220	Intermediate macroeconomics	2 or 3	6
ECON2280	Introductory econometrics	2 or 3	6

<i>Course code</i>	<i>Course title</i>	<i>Year of study</i>	<i>Credits</i>
ECON4200	Senior seminar in economics and finance* (Capstone course)	4	6
<b><i>Disciplinary Electives</i></b>			
ECONxxxx	Economics disciplinary electives	2 or 3 or 4	18

**3. Free Electives [108 credits]** – any courses except Common Core courses

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Notes:

1. The course shall be taken in the first semester of the first year.
  2. The course shall be taken in the second semester of the first year.
  3. Candidates are strongly advised to take MATH1009. Candidates who intend to take advanced mathematics courses should consider taking MATH1013. The sequence of taking MATH1009 first and then MATH1013 is allowed but not *vice versa*. 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.
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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	12 credits	36 credits	60 credits
<b>IV</b>	-	-	12 credits	48 credits	60 credits
<b>Total</b>	18 credits	36 credits	78 credits	108 credits	240 credits

## ECONOMICS DISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES (LIST A)

<i>Course code</i>	<i>Course title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
ECON2214	Games and decisions	6
ECON2216	Industrial organization	6
ECON2217	Economics of networks	6
ECON2223	Public finance	6
ECON2225	Economics of population changes	6
ECON2226	Chinese economy	6
ECON2232	Economics of human resources	6
ECON2233	The economics of law	6
ECON2234	Transportation economics	6
ECON2249	Foreign trade and investment in China	6
ECON2252	Theory of international trade	6
ECON2253	International macroeconomics	6
ECON2255	The economic system of Hong Kong	6
ECON2257	Trade, investment and development in APEC economies	6
ECON2262	Economic development	6
ECON2264	Political economy of development in China	6
ECON2266	Urban economics	6
ECON2271	Finance in history and society	6
ECON2272	History of economic thought	6
ECON2273	Economic history of China	6
ECON2275	The political economy of law and public policy	6
ECON2276	State, law and the economy	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
ECON3220	Research on Chinese economy	6
ECON3221	Macroeconomic analysis for emerging markets economies	6
ECON3222	Monetary economics	6
ECON3223	Credit, bubbles and the macroeconomy	6
ECON3224	Health economics	6
ECON3225	Big data economics	6
ECON3229	Topics in macroeconomics	6
ECON3232	Environmental economics	6
ECON3233	Data analytics in digital economy	6
ECON3234	Behavioural economics	6
ECON3235	Economics of education and human capital	6
ECON3243	Capital theory	6
ECON3262	Inequality and growth	6
ECON3272	The political economy of globalization	6
ECON3283	Economic forecasting	6
ECON3284	Causal inference	6
ECON3293	Reading course	6
ECON4294	Dissertation	12