

Economics program 18 month status report

DUE: October 2025

DATE SUBMITTED: 28 10 2025

PREPARED FOR:

Vice President, Academic and Research
Algoma University Quality Assurance Committee

PREPARED BY:

[Robert Xu, FEDS Department Chair and Aroob Pirzada, Administrative Assistant, FEDS]

1.0 ACTION

IQAP Article 3.6

- Step 19: 18 month status report (p. 38)
The department will prepare a report on the status of the Implementation Plan 18 months following the Senate’s approval of the FAR. The CAO or designate will monitor the completion of the status report. The Department will submit the status report to the Office of the CAO who will then submit it to QualCom for review. QualCom may request additional information or action from the Department
- Step 20: Senate approval of 18 month status report:
When QualCom is satisfied with the 18-Month Status Report, QualCom will forward a recommendation to the Senate for approval of the report.

IQAP Article 3.7.1 (p. 39)

- The Office of the CAO will post the approved 18 month status report to the university website. The Office of the CAO will forward the Senate-approved 18 month status report to the Board of Governors for information.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Briefly describe the status of each recommendation. If the status is incomplete, provide a rationale. Please provide the rationale if there were any alterations to the original Implementation Plan.

Recommendation 1	Consider introducing a new 4-year honours program in Economics with a standard undergraduate economics curriculum that does not include required courses in finance (page 3, External Reviewers’ Report) (ER - Recommendation 5)
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	The concept summary has been approved. The full proposal is under development.

Recommendation 2	Full-time faculty members of the economic programs are given more opportunities to participate in the recruitment process (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER - Recommendation 3)
Status:	<i>in progress</i>
Details:	The admin team is recommended to ask for support from the FEDS faculty members for both undergraduate and graduate programs.
Recommendation 3	<p>Course/program related recommendations grouped together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Courses in advanced microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics should be made available to students (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 7) B. <i>n/a</i> C. Required courses should be offered more frequently to improve student experience. A broader range of elective courses should also be offered more frequently (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER - Recommendation 13) D. Consider increasing the admissions average to 70% (consistent with BBA and similar programs at comparator schools) for the BA4 program (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 2) E. <i>n/a</i> F. Consider increasing section sizes in ECON1006 and ECON1007 to reduce the number of total first year sections offered (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 18) G. List more elective courses in the academic calendar and offer the listed elective courses on a regular basis. Economic electives to consider could include economic history, history of economic thought, health economics (which may currently be offered as a topics course, but is not listed in the academic calendar), labour economics, income inequality, industrial organization, and economics of gender (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 10) H. Consider adding a required three credits from a list of Indigenous related courses offered in other programs such as history (HIST2196, HIST2116, or HIST2117) or community economic and social development (CESD2106) (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 9) I. Students in ECON2126, ECON3807, and ECON4086 have access to a common statistical software (e.g., Eviews, STATA, R) (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 8) J. The replacement of ADMN1016 by ADMN1207 is not necessary (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER- Recommendation 11)

	<p>K. Raise the pass mark for ADMIN3116/3117, ECON2106/2107 from 50% to 60% (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER- Recommendation 14)</p> <p>L. Encourage students to complete at least one course in calculus, statistics, econometrics (focusing on regression analysis), linear algebra, and quantitative methods (page 5, External Reviewers' Report) (ER- Recommendation 25)</p>
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Details:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A: In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FEDS have decided to introduce the Advanced (Applied) Econometrics course by Sep 2026 (this will be a core course.) ○ Advanced Micro- and Macroeconomics courses will be developed by September 2026. ● C: In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The FEDS department will recommend the registrar's office and the dean's office offer the required courses frequently (based on faculty availability) ● D: Complete and ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The FEDS department will fill out and submit a program revision template based on the external reviewer's recommendations. ● E: Complete and ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The FEDS department will fill and submit a Minor modification program template and course template for the revised courses. ○ For 3076, add Pre reqs - ECON 2106 & 2107; Prerequisite for ECON3106 is ECON2106; for ECON3807 are ECON2126 (or ADMN2506) & ECON2127; for ECON3446 is ECON2107. ● F: Complete and ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implemented ● G: In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have developed and are currently offering labour economics and health economics under special topics in economics. We plan to develop and offer more electives as we add more faculty members with diverse expertise. ● H: Complete and ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We always highly recommend our students to enroll in these courses. Making one of these courses a 'required' one involves a program revision, and we are planning to incorporate this change along with other potential major changes into the next academic cycle's program revision activity. ● I: In progress <p>The Labs have STATA now for students usage. The university subscribes to STATA and EViews for students. The university needs to renew the subscription of these softwares to give access to the students of these courses.</p> ● J: Complete and ongoing <p>The FEDS department has submitted a program template of major modification, along with a course revision template for the revised courses.</p> ● K: Complete and ongoing <p>The major modification program template has been submitted for Senate</p>

	<p>approval to raise the passing mark of all required courses from 50 % to 60% from the next academic cycle (2026-2027).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L: In progress Our students are exposed to these topics/concepts as part of their required mathematics, statistics, and econometrics courses. Our newly proposed Bachelor of Science program will incorporate separate courses in linear algebra and calculus.
Recommendation 4	The Faculty of Business and Economics in conjunction with the co-op office, work to develop an effective co-op program on both the Sault Ste. Marie and Brampton campuses (page 5, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 26)
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	In progress
Recommendation 5	The Faculty of Business and Economics should regularly hold information sessions in the Fall term for students interested in pursuing graduate studies (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 24)
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	In progress
Recommendation 6	More entrance scholarships be provided to domestic and international students based on merit and performance (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 4)
Status:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Details:	We recommend that the university and the FBE dean implement it.
Recommendation 7	There should be separate web-pages for economic programs, which should include information about economics, profiles of faculty members, references to samples of term papers and research papers written by students and faculty members, and references to presentations by guest speakers (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 21)
Status:	<i>in progress</i>
Details:	The FEDS Chair &AA is in communication with the marketing and communications team and have suggested updates to Algoma's website to create a separate page for the program.
Recommendation 8	In line with the special mission of the University, an interdisciplinary or certificate program as mentioned in the Self-Study Report (page 16), should be developed between economics and the department of Community Economic and Social Development (page 3, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 1)
Status:	<i>in progress</i>
Details:	The two departments are in talks about an interdisciplinary program
Recommendation 9	To maintain academic integrity, we recommend that for on-campus and online courses, especially online courses, proper guidelines and use of appropriate

	technologies should be specified (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 15)
Status:	<i>completed</i>
Details:	A proctoring software (ProctorU) for the monitoring of online exams has been introduced and is being used by faculty members
Recommendation 10	The Faculty of Business and Economics or Algoma University should maintain a database of graduates from economics programs to assess the employment rates, rates of pursuing graduate studies and the job experiences of students (recommendations 22-23, page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 22 and 23)
Status:	<i>in progress</i>
Details:	Ongoing collaboration with the registrar's office and the Student Success office is in progress, waiting for a response. An alumni office is being discussed to be established at the university.
Recommendation 11	The Faculty of Business and Economics explores options for organizing seminars on a biweekly or monthly basis. Presenters may include faculty members, students, representatives from local business companies, guest speakers from other universities, and non-government organizations. To minimize financial costs, guest speakers can give presentations through zoom. Alternatively, the Faculty of Business and Economics could encourage inviting speakers who may get funding from their own organizations, such as Bank of Canada and Statistics Canada (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 20)
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	We have already implemented the Monthly Speaker Seminar series.
Recommendation 12	The Faculty of Business and Economics encourage students to develop an active club or association (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER- Recommendation 16)
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	Our students have been encouraged to join AUBS and actively participate in it.
Recommendation 13	Hire at least two tenure-track faculty members for the Brampton campus and at least one new tenure-track/tenured position for the Sault Ste. Marie campus. We also suggest priority be given to a qualified female candidate for at least one new position (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER—Recommendation 17)
Status:	<i>Complete and ongoing</i>
Details:	We have been able to hire one tenure-track faculty member (Macroeconomics) for the Brampton campus. In addition, we have been able to convert and hire one of our CLTA positions to tenure-track (Microeconomics) at the SSM campus. Two CLTA's have been finalized, one in Brampton and one in Sault Ste. Marie, both

	aligned with the Master of Global Business and Economy (MGBE) program and scheduled to begin in January 2026.
Recommendation 14	Additional financial resources be made available to hire teaching assistants for large classes (page 4, External Reviewers' Report) (ER-Recommendation 19)
Status:	Completed
Details:	<p>Two Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) have been assigned, one at Brampton and one at Sault Ste. Marie (SSM) to support undergraduate teaching and research activities across economics and quantitative courses.</p> <p>TA's hired in last year (not applicable to this year due to sustainable budget)</p> <p>The new collective agreement allows for a marking assistant (or alternatively a stipend) for courses with more than 40 students. Additionally, tutorial assistants are allocated to courses that have tutorial sessions that are mentioned in the academic calendar.</p>

3.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<p><i>Please use the space below to report on anything the Department/Program believes is appropriate to bring to the Algoma University Senate concerning this program. Please outline and explain any circumstances that have altered the original Implementation Plan and any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review.</i></p>
<p>Since the initial Implementation Plan for the BA3 and BA4 Economics programs, the department has taken several steps to improve academic quality, respond to external reviewer recommendations, and align with institutional priorities. Some of the major developments include the introduction of a new Bachelor of Science in Economics program with a focus on Data Analytics, which is currently in the program development stage; increased elective courses offered (such as Health and Labour Economics); and the ongoing work of reviewing major and minor program revisions; such as updating prerequisites, increasing pass mark percentages, and taking into consideration the inclusion of Indigenous-related course requirements. An Advanced Econometrics course has also been implemented in Fall 2026 and advanced courses on macro and micro economics are planned for September 2026.</p> <p>The FEDS department has also worked to improve student experience and program visibility through initiatives like the monthly speaker seminar series, encouragement of student involvement in the Algoma University Business Society (AUBS), and efforts to improve access to relevant software. There are collaborative discussions going on with other departments regarding interdisciplinary programming, and ongoing coordination with the Dean's Office, the Administrative Assistant of the department, and the Registrar's office aims to enhance course delivery and co-op development and introduce a graduate tracking system.</p>