

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY NEW EFS STUDENTS

1. **What is the difference between the Bachelor of Economics (BEc) and the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)?**

In some ways this is not an easy question to answer. The most straightforward answer is that there are two generic degrees offered by EFS – the BEc and the BCom; but the BEc specifies a minimum number of credit points (cp) above 100-level in ECON units (12 cp, including ECON232). While there are different UAC cut-offs for the two degrees, many programs can be done for the award of either the BEc or the BCom (eg Economics, Applied Econometrics, Business Law and Economics); some are for the BEc only (Statistics and Econometrics, Demography and Economics), while others are for the BCom only (Finance). The table on page 2 of the Department of Economics *Programs of Study 2008* document shows all the BEc/BCom programs of study offered in the Department of Economics with their UAC and Macquarie University codes and the 2008 UAI cut-offs. [Note that there are other BCom programs that are not included in this table because they are not offered by the Department of Economics: eg Accounting [Department of Accounting and Finance], Risk and Insurance [Department of Actuarial Studies], Marketing and Organisational Behaviour [Department of Business].

One change for 2008 is that the prerequisites for ACCG105 *Introductory Financial Accounting* have been extended to include the BEc. This means that all BCom and BEc students may enrol in ACCG105 (offered only in second semester). If you are looking for 100-level electives, you should consider enrolling in ACCG105 because, if you choose to switch to a BCom in Finance, taking ACCG105 in first year will make it easier for you to pick up ACCG253, etc in subsequent years.

The table also shows the various double degree programs involving the Department of Economics – BCom-Actuarial Studies/BEc; BAppFin/BEc; BBA/BEc; BCom/LLB; and BAppFin/LLB – and their sub-sets.

2. **What is the difference between a study pattern and a coherent study?**

Some of our programs are set out in the *2008 Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* as study patterns (ie the required units at 100, 200 and 300-level are specified) and some as coherent studies (ie only the required units at 300 level are specified, with the prerequisites for those units requiring completion of specific 100 and 200-level units). Some coherent studies also specify “prescribed units” – these are units that must be completed in the particular program, but which are not prerequisites for any required higher-level units

(ECON232 is such a prescribed unit in the various BEc coherent studies, as is ECON201 in the BCom Economics + Marketing coherent study and both ECON201 and ECON232 in the BEc Economics + Marketing coherent study).

3. What units should I enrol in?

When a program is set out as a study pattern, the required units at 100, 200, and 300 level units are specified. But almost all of the study patterns have elective units that need to be chosen to meet the 68 credit points for the degree (or the higher number of credit points for the double degree programs). You are encouraged to look outside EFS for these elective units. You can choose any 100-level units for which you satisfy the prerequisites. You should choose 100-level electives based on any particular interests you have – geography, politics, history, a language, etc. At enrolment, a list of 100-level units for which there are no prerequisites will be available.

When a program is set out as a coherent study, the required units at 100 and 200-levels are not specified. To assist you in choosing your required units in this case, the Department of Economics *Programs of Study 2008* document sets out these programs in study pattern format.

The *Programs of Study 2008* document also shows the number of credit points available for elective units at 100, 200 and 300-levels for the various programs.

4. What do I need to do if I do not meet the mathematics prerequisite?

If you do not meet the mathematics prerequisite then you can only enrol in ECON110 if you enrol concurrently in an acceptable 100-level MATH unit. There are two MATH units that meet this requirement – MATH123 *Mathematics 123* and MATH130 *Mathematics 1E*. MATH123 is the unit recommended by the Department of Economics. However MATH123 is a D1 unit only and not offered at times that are always convenient to part-time students. So students unable to take MATH123 will have to enrol in MATH130 – this unit is offered D1E1 and D2. You should note that if you fail MATH123 in first semester then, regardless of how you performed in ECON110, you will be required to enrol in MATH130 in second semester concurrently with ECON111.

If you have been admitted to the University on the basis of non-2007 HSC results (eg interstate or overseas qualification, IB, HSC prior to 2007, etc) that includes mathematics subjects, you will have to see an advisor in the Department of Mathematics to have your mathematics assessed. If the Mathematics advisor regards your mathematics as equivalent to NSW HSC Mathematics Band 2, you will be issued with a Statement of Equivalence. You should keep a photocopy of this statement in case it is needed in the future.

5. I want to do a BEc or BCom but did not achieve a sufficiently high UAI. What can I do?

Internal transfer from BA/BSc/BeBus/etc courses to BEc/BCom/BAppFin courses is possible after you have completed at least 12 credit point with a GPA of 2.0 (for BEc/BCom, BCom-Accg) or 2.25 (for BAppFin) or 2.5 (for BBA, BCom-Mktg). If you achieve these GPAs with 12 or more credit points, you can submit a Request to Transfer Degree Course form (available from the Student Centre in the Lincoln Building) immediately after the exam results become available.

If you are hoping to transfer to a BEc/BCom program, don't forget that there is a mathematics prerequisite for ECON110 and ECON111. If you do not meet the mathematics prerequisite for ECON110 and ECON111, you may wish to take MATH123 in first semester – alternatively, you can enrol concurrently in ECON110 and MATH123 (or ECON111 and MATH130) when you are admitted to the BEc/BCom program. You should choose units in your first semester that you are likely to do well in – and not because the units are offered in EFS. Transfer is based only on the GPA/credit point criterion, not on the particular units undertaken.