

AN EVALUATION OF EXISTING STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

THE BESS AND SES PROGRAMMES

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(Submitted by Belize)

BUSINESS, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL STATISTICS - UWI, Mona

- Three-year Bachelor of Science degree programme offered by UWI, Mona
- Established at behest of SCCS to meet needs of NSOs in Caricom Region
- Began in late 1980s
- Very small number of graduates; there are countries in the region with no graduates from the programme
- Consists of 30 three-credit courses taken over six semesters

BESS 1ST-YEAR COURSES

- Sociology
- English
- Mathematics or Statistical Methods I
- Microeconomics
- Politics or Financial Accounting
- Caribbean Civilisation
- Medicine, Science and Technology in Society
- Macroeconomic
- Statistics

BESS 2nd-YEAR COURSES

- Business Statistics
- Statistical Methods I
- Matrix Algebra*
- Any two level-2 electives
 - BESS
 - Social Science
 - Economics
- Sampling Methods
- Statistical Methods II
- Calculus II*
- Statistical Computing
- Any one level-2 elective
 - BESS
 - Social Science

BESS 3rd-YEAR COURSES

- Probability & Distribution Theory
- Statistical Estimation & Inference
- Econometrics I
- Non-parametric Statistics*
- Three level-3 electives
 - BESS
 - Social Science
 - Free
- Three level-3 electives
 - BESS
 - Social Science
 - Free

GENERAL COMMENTS ON BESS

- Continuation of programme is not threatened since courses are also taken by students enrolled in other programmes
- Requires only one summer internship (at end of second year). Initially, internship was also required at end of first year.
- All core courses are available in Economics Department. At start, the programme was dependent on Mathematics Department for two of its courses.
- Despite its name, programme looks more like a straight Statistics programme
 - There are few courses tagged “for business and social sciences” but this seems meaningless
 - Business Stats in second year and Econometrics in final year
 - Possible to complete it without Demography or Survey Design

GENERAL COMMENTS ON BESS continued

- Divorced from key topics that students are likely to encounter in their professional lives
- There is scope to increase core courses. A second Sampling Methods course is needed since the first merely constitutes an introduction of the topic
- Efforts should be made to include national accounts, merchandise trade and price indices topics in level 2 or level 3 economics courses, thereby benefiting statistics and economic students alike.
- The course Sustainable Economic Development and Environmental Planning addresses several issues in resource accounting, including the construction of Green National Product
- The IMF and UNSD are two of the organisations that can probably assist with curriculum development.
- As much as the university must consider of variety of student interests (graduate studies, industry, etc.), it is imperative that the education it offers is relevant.

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC STATISTICS - UTECH

- Two-module certificate course offered during the summer
- Each module lasts for about three months
- Like BESS, started in late 1980s
- Primarily targets persons interested in acquiring general proficiency in the compilation of statistics.
- Much better enrollment than BESS programme (2004 intake: 9 participants from 6 countries)
- Programme is described as very practical and relevant to NSOs
 - Involvement of professional staff from STATIN
 - Rave reviews from graduates
- Considering to introduce an undergraduate programme. Graduates of SES certificate course wishing to enroll in BESS programme must also meet UWI matriculation requirements.

CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL & ECONOMIC STATISTICS COURSES

- Censuses and Surveys (3)
- Communication (2)
- Elements of Economics (1)
- Elements of Sociology (1)
- Mathematics I (2)
- Presentation of Data & Descriptive Summary Measures (3)
- Statistical Methods & Inferences (3)
- Processing of Data (1)
- Information Technology (1)
- Behavioural Skills (2)
- Caribbean Economic Issues (1)
- Caribbean Social Issues (1)
- Mathematics II (2)
- Statistical Methods & inferences II (2)
- Demography & Social Statistics
- External Trade & Agricultural Statistics
- Index Number
- Labour Force and Establishment Statistics
- National Accounts & Financial Statistics



Thank You