

### **Undergraduate Elective Courses**

As you know, all of the elective courses taught at the 3000 level or higher in economics have as pre-requisites Intermediate Micro and Intermediate Macro. Some courses have additional pre-requisites (at the instructors request) and a full list of these is included in the memo on prerequisites. However, just because a class is a pre-requisite does not imply that the students recall all that they covered in that class. Many of your students completed the prerequisite courses more than a year prior to taking your course and may in the meantime not have used the specific skill that you would like them to have. For example, if you are teaching an upper level micro course then it would not be unreasonable for you to expect that your students can set up a constrained optimization problem and solve it. However, you may have students in your class who took micro 2 years earlier and who have not taken any classes in the interim that required this skill. Many of these students will tell you that they do not know how to solve such problems (even though they did solve those problems in micro).

To deal with this problem, I would recommend that you have your TA hold a couple of review sessions early in the semester. If your TA regularly gives recitations then these sessions would be held during normal recitation hours. If your TA does not hold recitations then he or she could schedule a few sessions specifically to cover the material that you require. During these review sessions the TA could focus on the specific economics and mathematical and statistical tools that you will emphasize in your class. You would tell students that they are expected to know these tools so if they feel they are rusty then they should attend.