

Syllabus

Virginia Economics and Personal Finance Semester A

Course Overview

This one-semester course provides an introduction to consumer economics, the study of how consumers make economic decisions or financial choices in a market economy. You'll explore career opportunities in personal finance and consumer services and identify and acquire essential skills for success in this field. This course has 13 lessons organized into three units. Each unit has a Unit Activity and each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

Additionally, there is one Course Activity that you need to work on throughout the duration of the course. This activity is a long-term project spread over the length of the course. The due date for this activity is to be determined by the course instructor.

You will submit the Unit Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with the given sample responses. The Unit Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are the major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson; the pre- and post-test questions that come at the beginning and end of each unit, respectively; and an end-of-semester test. All of these tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology enhanced (TE) questions.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Understand the basic principles of money and economic systems.
- Understand the role of the consumer in the American economic system and identify national and international issues that affect consumers.
- Explore careers in personal finance and consumer services and identify and acquire essential skills for career success.

Prerequisite Skills

Virginia Economics and Personal Finance Semester A has the following prerequisites:

- basic math knowledge
- ability to visualize and apply creativity and innovation
- familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines
- basic computer skills

- ability to structure and process information

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Virginia Economics and Personal Finance Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft Excel or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Course Structure

Unit 1: Principles of Money and Economic Systems

Summary

In this unit, you will learn about money as the medium of exchange across the world and its contribution to different economies. You will familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of macro- and microeconomics and the application of these concepts in the world of finance. You will also learn about the concept of global trade; its scope, drivers, and constraints; and its effects on the economy.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
5 days: 2–6	Defining Money <i>Discuss how money and its various forms work and contribute to the economy.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7–11	Fundamental Economics <i>Explain the role of fundamental economic concepts in the world of finance.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 10–13	Economic Systems <i>Discuss how enterprises operate within various market structures.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 14–18	Economic Indicators <i>Discuss how key economic indicators, such as interest rates, unemployment, inflation, and cyclical, have a bearing on economic activity.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 19–23	Government Policy <i>Explain how government actions affect enterprises, especially in decisions on fiscal and monetary policy.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 24–28	Global Trade <i>Describe the workings of and influencing factors within global trade.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 29	Space Jumble	Game
5 days: 30–34	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity
1 day: 35	Post-test—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Consumer Economics

Summary

In this unit, you will examine the role of the consumer in the economic system of the United States. You will learn about different sources for consumers to access and evaluate information about products and services and how these sources affect consumers' purchase decisions. You will also learn about consumer protection laws and regulations and how they affect consumers and businesses in terms of the cost and quality of goods and services.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 36–40	The Role of Consumers in a Market Economy <i>Understand the role of the consumer in the American economic system and identify national and international issues that affect consumers.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 41–45	Consumer Information: Sources and Effects <i>Identify various sources of consumer information and their effects on consumer decisions.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 46–50	Consumer Rights and Responsibilities <i>Identify the economic rights and responsibilities of individuals as consumers.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 51	Para Jumble	Game
5 days: 52–56	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity
1 day: 57	Post-test—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Careers in Personal Finance and Consumer Services

Summary

In this unit, you will explore career opportunities in personal finance and consumer services. You will learn about education and training requirements, industry certifications, and professional organizations for different careers in this field. You will become acquainted with the job roles and responsibilities of professionals engaged in consumer services, and you will identify and acquire essential skills for success in these careers. This unit also discusses legislative, economic, and social trends in this industry.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
7 days: 58–64	Career Options <i>Explore careers in personal finance and consumer services.</i>	Lesson
Extend ed Project	Joining a Student Organization for Career Guidance	Course Activity
5 days: 65–69	Financial Planning <i>Describe the process and benefits of financial planning and discuss the ethics of the profession.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 70–75	Academic and Interpersonal Skills for Career Success <i>Identify and acquire study habits and interpersonal skills for success at college and in your career.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 76–81	Technology and Workplace Skills <i>Identify and acquire technology and workplace readiness skills needed for career success.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 82	Thwack-a-Mole	Game
5 days: 83–87	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity
1 day: 88	Post-test—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	