

PLATO Course Florida Economics with Financial Literacy

Course Overview

PLATO Course Florida Economics with Financial Literacy will introduce you to important concepts in economics such as economic systems, market economies, and supply and demand. You will learn about free market and business structures. You will study the role of government in regulating the economy. You will examine global trade and processes that change the distribution of Earth's natural resources. You will learn about consumer economics, and familiarize yourself with personal financial management and the importance of saving and investing.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet these goals:

- Describe how different economic systems answer the basic economic questions.
- Explain the elements of the US labor market.
- Analyze the role of government in regulating the economy.
- Explain the reasons for international trade and how it impacts the US economy.
- Describe the working of, and influencing factors within, global trade.
- Analyze processes that change the distribution of Earth's natural resources.
- Identify various sources of consumer information and their effects on consumer decisions.
- Describe the types and services of financial institutions and their role in personal financial planning.
- Evaluate services and related costs associated with personal banking.
- Explain the basic principles of taxation and how taxes affect consumers.
- Identify reasons for saving and investing and different savings and investment options.
- Use a decision-making model to analyze a health-policy issue.

General Skills

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

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- 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

PLATO Course Florida Economics with Financial Literacy is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

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

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

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.

Unit 1: Introduction to Economics

Summary

In this unit, you will be introduced to the foundational principles of economics. You will analyze why scarcity and choice are basic economic problems every society faces, and explore how different economic systems answer the basic economic questions. You will examine how market economies differ from other major economic systems, and analyze the impact of changes in supply, demand, or both.

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
2 days: 2–3	Scarcity and Opportunity Cost <i>Explain why scarcity and choice are basic economic problems faced by every society.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 4–5	Economic Systems <i>Describe how different economic systems answer the basic economic questions.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 6–7	Market Economies <i>Analyze how market economies differ from other major economic systems.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 8–9	Supply and Demand <i>Interpret the impact of changes in supply, demand, or both.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 10–12	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 13	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Free Market and Businesses

Summary

In this unit, you will explore how free-market economies foster business and examine the types of business structures and markets that emerge. You will categorize resources into factors of production and use production possibilities curves to interpret the scarcity of resources. You will analyze how the market system encourages entrepreneurship and examine the different types of business organizations that result. You will also explore the elements of the US labor market, and explain how productivity, technology, and trade relate to growth.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
2 days: 14–15	Production Curves <i>Categorize resources into factors of production and use production possibilities curves to interpret the scarcity of resources.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 16–17	Business Structures <i>Explain how the market system encourages entrepreneurship and analyze the different types of business organizations that result.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 18–19	Labor <i>Describe the elements of the US labor market.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 20–21	Growth <i>Analyze how productivity, technology, and trade relate to growth.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 22–23	Economic Data Collection and Analysis <i>Use GDP, inflation, and unemployment rates to measure the health of an economy and its possible growth.</i>	Course Activity
3 days: 24–26	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 27	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Government

Summary

In this unit, you will examine the role of government in regulating the economy and discuss the influence of the federal government on the US economy. You will analyze the costs and benefits of US economic policies on the US and the global economy. You will analyze the use and goals of fiscal policy, government regulations, and taxation in the US economy. You will also explain the structure of the Federal Reserve System and discuss its impact on US monetary policy.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
2 days: 28–29	Government and the Economy <i>Examine the role of government in regulating the economy.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 30–31	The Role of Government <i>Analyze the influence of the federal government on the US economy.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 32–33	Costs and Benefits of Government <i>Analyze the costs and benefits of US economic policies on the United States and the world.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 34–35	Taxation <i>Explain the use and goals of fiscal policy, government regulations, and taxation in the US economy.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 36–37	Money and the Federal Reserve <i>Explain the structure of the Federal Reserve System and analyze its impact on US monetary policy.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 38–40	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 41	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: Regulations and Global Trade

Summary

In this unit, you will investigate how market structures and regulations interact to form the world's global trade network. You will compare the four market structures and analyze the reasons for international trade and how it impacts the US economy. You will examine how establishing or reducing trade restrictions and addressing changes in political borders affects the US economy. You will learn about the working of, and influencing factors within, global trade, and study processes that change the distribution of Earth's natural resources.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
2 days: 42–43	Market Structures <i>Compare the four market structures.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 44–45	The Benefits of Trade <i>Explain the reasons for international trade and how it impacts the US economy.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 46	Regulation of Trade <i>Analyze how establishing or reducing trade restrictions and addressing changes in political borders affect the US economy.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 47	Global Trade <i>Describe the working of, and influencing factors within, global trade.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 48	Natural Resources <i>Examine processes that change the distribution of Earth's natural resources.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 49–51	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 52	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment

Unit 5: Consumer Economics and Financial Services

Summary

In this unit, you will study the role of the consumer in the American economic system and identify national and international issues that affect consumers. You will also learn about various sources of consumer information and their effect on consumer decisions. You will discuss psychological factors that are likely to influence decisions in finance, and analyze the economic rights and responsibilities of individuals as consumers. Further, you will discuss sociological factors that are likely to influence decisions in finance. Additionally, you will describe the types and services of financial institutions and their role in personal financial planning. Lastly, you will explore how assets and securities operate within financial markets.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 53	Consumer Economics <i>Understand the role of the consumer in the American economic system and identify national and international issues that affect consumers.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 54	Consumer Information: Sources and Effects <i>Identify various sources of consumer information and their effect on consumer decisions.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 55	Psychology for Finance <i>Discuss psychological factors that are likely to influence decisions in finance.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 56	Consumer Rights and Responsibilities <i>Identify the economic rights and responsibilities of individuals as consumers.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 57	Sociological Factors in Finance <i>Discuss sociological factors that are likely to influence decisions in finance.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 58	Financial Institutions <i>Describe the types and services of financial institutions and their role in personal financial planning.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 59	Assets and Securities <i>Discuss how assets and securities operate within financial markets.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 60–62	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 5	Unit Activity/ Discussion

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 63	Posttest—Unit 5	Assessment

Unit 6: Personal Financial Management

Summary

In this unit, you will apply what you have learned earlier in the course to your own financial decisions. You will identify your short-term and long-term career goals and apply a decision-making process to your career plan. You will explore how to create realistic financial budgets and goals and examine the need for personal and family financial planning and how it affects consumer decisions. You will learn the skills to manage personal and family income and expenses. You will also study the importance of credit and the risks, methods, and processes associated with credit. You will explore different ways of funding a college education and plan for key items for independent living, such as a vehicle, a home, and utilities. Lastly, you will explain the basic principles of taxation and how taxes affect consumers.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 64	Setting Goals and Making Decisions <i>Identify your short-term and long-term career goals and apply a decision-making process to your career plan.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 65	Setting Goals in Personal Finance <i>Discuss how to create realistic financial budgets and goals.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 66	Financial Planning <i>Evaluate the need for personal and family financial planning and how it affects consumer decisions.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 67	Managing Income and Expenses <i>Acquire the skills to manage personal and family income and expenses.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 68	Banking <i>Evaluate services and related costs associated with personal banking.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 69	Personal Finance Statements <i>Discuss how to apply processes, forms, and financial entities to track one's personal financial history.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 70	Obtaining Credit <i>Discuss the importance of credit, and the risks, methods, and processes associated with credit.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 71	Consumer Credit and Loans <i>Identify various sources of consumer credit and compare their costs and benefits.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 72	Financing Education after High School <i>Explore different ways of funding a college education.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 73	Planning for Living and Leisure Expenses <i>Plan for key items for independent living, such as a vehicle, a home, and utilities.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 74	Managing Taxes and Legal Documents <i>Explain the basic principles of taxation and how it affects consumers.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 75–77	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 6	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 78	Posttest—Unit 6	Assessment

Unit 7: Securing the Future

Summary

In this unit, you will analyze long-term personal-finance decisions. You will identify reasons for saving and investing and explore different savings and investment options. You will learn to compare and choose savings and investment options based on their risk, return, and liquidity. You will also discuss how individuals and families can use various types of insurance for managing financial risk. Lastly, you will explore how to research, evaluate, and advocate for public health policies that influence good health and disease prevention for yourself and your community.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 79	Saving and Investing <i>Identify reasons for saving and investing and different savings and investment options.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 80	Choosing the Right Savings and Investment Options <i>Learn to compare and choose savings and investment options based on their risk, return, and liquidity.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 81	Buying Insurance <i>Explain how individuals and families can use various types of insurance for managing financial risk.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 82	Public Health Policies <i>Explore how to research, evaluate, and advocate for public health policies that influence good health and disease prevention.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 83–84	Decision Making and Health Policy <i>Use a decision-making model to analyze a health-policy issue.</i>	Course Activity
3 days: 85–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 7	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 7	Assessment
1 day: 89	Course Review	
1 day 90	End-of-Course Test	Assessment