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**Getting the Basics Right:  
Factors shaping student performance in intermediate economics**

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**Abstract**

*This article examines the determinants of student performance in a second-year undergraduate economics course at a major Australian university – the University of Technology Sydney. This article contributes to the literature by focusing on economics teaching in second-year, which is an area that has received little scholarly interest. The relevant data was collected by administering a survey and accessing student records, ultimately providing a usable sample group of 122 students. Out of a wide range of variables two strong determinants of performance emerged; namely, students' pre-course aptitude and hours spent in paid employment. Based on these findings suggestions for increasing student performance in second-year economics are provided.*

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