

Senior Thesis Information Session, April 1, 2025

Important Dates

- May 5: Preliminary Proposal is Due (form is posted on the wiki page) – not required
- August 18: Final Proposal is due (form will be sent out over the summer) - required

Finding a Topic

- The best sources are your economics classes and your RA experiences.
- Summer Internships are also a good source of ideas
- Keep the availability of data in mind.
 - You must be able to identify the data sets that you plan to use and make sure that they are available to you.
 - Speak with a Research Librarian to identify available data sets.
 - Check out the Data Resource guide on the Computing and Data Resources page.

Finding an Adviser

- Each student writing a thesis will be assigned a faculty adviser.
- In the best case, it will be a faculty member who already knows you.
- How do you get to know faculty members?
 - Go to faculty office hours.
 - Work as an RA.
- Speak to your TAs regarding faculty research areas.

Timeline

- Submit a preliminary proposal to get feedback.
- Over the summer
 - Read economics research papers on your topic.
 - Improve your programming skills (STATA, R, Python, Matlab, etc).

Final Proposal

- The proposal should include both a question and a tentative answer.
- Indicate your data sets and how you plan to access the data.
- Include a brief bibliography (2-3 papers is sufficient).

Honors Seminar

- Coursework and grades needed to be admitted to the Honors Seminar:
 - The minimum GPA is a 3.7 in economics courses.
 - We expect that students have completed 2 or more economics electives and at least one should be relevant for the proposal.
 - We expect good grades in the core econ classes.
- Joint majors can write a thesis in economics.
- You must be able to attend the Honors Seminar scheduled **Wed 4:10 – 6 in the Fall**. In the seminar you will
 - present your work and discuss others work.
 - submit progress reports to the honors seminar instructor.
- You will also meet with your individual faculty adviser.
- Failure to meet with advisers on a regular basis or to turn in progress reports on time is a reason to dismiss you from the honors seminar.
- If you only complete one semester of the honors seminar, then you will receive an R in the seminar. You will have to complete the seminar requirement by taking a senior seminar.