UMD ECONOMICS
HONORS PROGRAM
What is the Honors Program?

An opportunity to:

- Learn valuable research skills
- Find out if an academic career suits you
- Develop a relationship with professors, who are potential mentors and professional references
- Produce written analysis you can show to future non-academic employers
An opportunity to …
An opportunity to... **stand out from the crowd!**

- Fewer than 10/350 Economics Majors graduate with Honors
Who is it most valuable for?

- Students who want to learn how to better understand and produce economic analysis
- Students considering graduate programs: economics (Columbia), business, public policy, law (NYU),…
- Students who will complete most major requirements before their senior year (ECON396 will count towards the major!)
- Students who are seriously curious and hard working!
How do you get Honors?

Obtain GPA of at least 3.5 on both

- ECON396 (Fall) and ECON397 (Spring): Honors Thesis
- One methods and one field course listed below
  - BS Methods: ECON321 or ECON422
  - BA Methods: ECON402, ECON424, or ECON426
- Field courses:
  [http://econweb.umd.edu/~edinger/undergraduate/FieldCourseList.pdf](http://econweb.umd.edu/~edinger/undergraduate/FieldCourseList.pdf)
Application Process: Prerequisites

- 3.25+ GPA in courses before Honors start

- Prerequisite courses for BA students
  - Macro (ECON305) or Micro (ECON306)
  - A methods course (ECON402 or 424 or 426)
  - At least one field course: list here

- Prerequisite courses for BS students
  - Macro (ECON325) or Micro (ECON326)
  - Statistics (ECON 321 or STAT401)
  - At least one field course: list here

- Good idea for thesis topic and a willing advisor…how? See below.
Application Process: Key dates

- April 26th: Application form if applying for next academic year
- End of May: Initial admission decision
- End of August: Final decision (if marginal in May)
- Register for other Fall classes but keep M/W 9:30-10:45am open for ECON396
The distinguishing feature of the program!
ECON396 and 397: Syllabi here

Objective:
Develop and apply the skills required to write original research

Independent Study’ means you mostly learn-by-doing … with help
  - Meet regularly with main advisor to develop proposal and implement it
  - Meet regularly with me, colleagues for feedback and to ensure steady progress
Honors Thesis

Examples

- **Does Corporate Tax Lobbying Affect a Firm's Tax Rate**, Olga Canas
- **Familial HIV/AIDS and Educational Expectations of South African Youth**, Adrian Hamins-Puertolas
- **Effects of Anti-Secrecy Pay Laws on the Gender Wage Gap**, Amber Qureshi
- **Performance of School Matching Algorithms**, Omar Hossain Ahsan
Honors, more than a Thesis

- Learn/improve valuable basic research skills
  - Reliable sources of information
  - Norms and certificate for responsible research
  - How to present and disseminate your research through conferences (UMD) and journals
  - Data and statistical analysis with individual assistance
Developing a Proposal Topic

- Learn from us and students next semester
  - March (TBD): Meeting on how to find an advisor and develop a topic
  - April (TBD): Meeting to discuss proposal topics
- Take classes that count for prerequisites and
  - Learn research methods and develop a proposal for credit: ECON4xx
  - Develop a proposal for extra credit: TBD
- See form w/ additional tips and instructions [here](#)
Apply and Graduate with Honors!

- Fulfill the prerequisites
- Choose a topic and find an advisor (March)
- Apply to the program (April)
- Fulfill the course requirements
- Write your Honors thesis
- Graduate!
Contact and other information

- Director of ECON Honors: Nolan Pope  
  npope@umd.edu

- Director of Undergraduate Studies: Erin Moody  
  emoody@umd.edu

- Faculty advisors by expertise:  
  https://www.econ.umd.edu/landing/Research

- Application form: here