

UMD ECONOMICS HONORS PROGRAM

Information Session

What is the Honors Program?

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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 ...

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An opportunity to... **stand out from the crowd!**



- Fewer than 10/350 Economics Majors graduate with Honors

Who is it most valuable for?

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- 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?

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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>

Application Process: Prerequisites

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- ▣ 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

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- ❑ April 24th: 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 2pm-3:15pm open for ECON396

Honors Thesis

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- ▣ 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

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■ 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
- [The Effect of New York City Sports Outcomes on the Stock Market](#), Nir Levy,
2015 *Undergraduate Economic Review*: 12:1(8)
- [The Effect of Epidemiological Investor Sentiment on Financial Market Movements](#), Ruben A. Silverstone,
2021 *Undergraduate Economic Review*: 18:1(2)

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

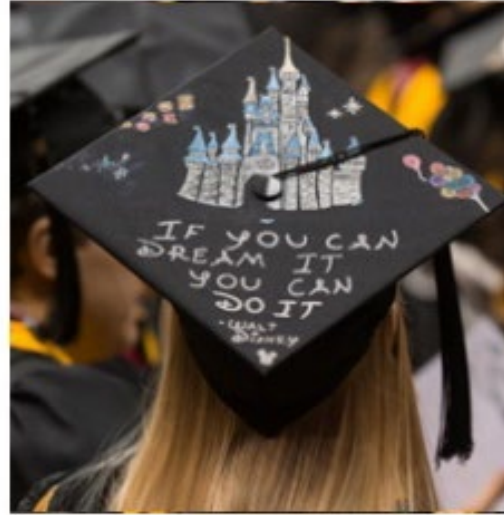
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- ▣ Learn from us and students next semester
 - March (TBD): Meeting on how to find an advisor and develop a topic
 - April (TBD): Meeting to discuss proposal topics
- ▣ Take classes that count for prerequisites and
 - Learn research methods and develop 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!

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- ❑ 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

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- ▣ Director of ECON Honors: Nolan Pope
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- ▣ Director of Undergraduate Studies: Erin Moody
emoody@umd.edu
- ▣ Faculty advisors by expertise:
<https://www.econ.umd.edu/landing/Research>
- ▣ Application form: [here](#)