

# 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!**

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- 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 25<sup>th</sup>: 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

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- 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

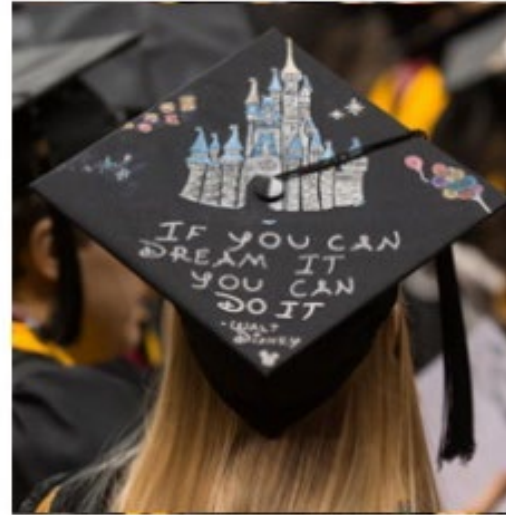
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- ▣ Learn from us and students next semester
  - March (TBD): Meeting on how to find an advisor and develop a topic
  - April (TBD): Meeting to discuss proposal topics
- ▣ Take classes that count for prerequisites and
  - Learn research methods and 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  
[npope@umd.edu](mailto:npope@umd.edu)
- ▣ Director of Undergraduate Studies: Erin Moody  
[emoody@umd.edu](mailto:emoody@umd.edu)
- ▣ Faculty advisors by expertise:  
<https://www.econ.umd.edu/landing/Research>
- ▣ Application form: [here](#)