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 (396 will count towards ECON!)
- 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
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 (TBD): 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 T-Th 9:30-10:45 open for ECON396
Honors Thesis

- The distinguishing feature of the program!
- ECON396 and 397: Syllabi at www.wam.umd.edu/~limao/honors

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
  - February (TBD): Meeting on how to find an advisor and develop a topic
  - March (TBD): Meeting to discuss proposal topics
- Take classes that count to 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 (Feb-March)
- Apply to the program (early April)
- Fulfill the course requirements
- Write your Honors thesis
- Graduate!
Contact and other information

- Director of ECON Honors: Nuno Limão
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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