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 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
- Students who are seriously curious and hard working!
How do you get Honors?

Obtain GPA of at least 3.5 on 4 required courses:

- 396 (Fall) and 397 (Spring): Honors Thesis
- 422 or 424: Econometrics
- Additional 400 level course from following list
Application Process

- **Pre-requisites**: 15+ credits of Ec30x, Ec40x courses including
  - Macro: 305 or 325 (3 credits)
  - Micro: 306 or 326 (3 credits)
  - At least one field course: list [here](#)
  - Completion before the Fall of senior year with a GPA of 3.25+ in pre-requisite courses

- Good idea for thesis topic and a willing advisor…how?
Application Process

- 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

Recent 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)*
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 pre-requisites and
  - Learn research methods and develop a proposal for credit: EC4xx
  - Develop a proposal for extra credit: TBD
- See form w/ additional tips and instructions [here](#)
Apply and Graduate with Honors!

- Fulfil the pre-requisites
- Choose a topic and find an advisor (Feb-March)
- Apply to the program (early April)
- Fulfil 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: Cindy Clement
  clement@econ.umd.edu
- Faculty advisors by expertise:
  https://www.econ.umd.edu/landing/Research
- Application form: here