Calculation of Honors

There are three levels of Department honors: *honors*, *high honors*, and *highest honors*. Advanced Course Track students are eligible for *honors* and Thesis Track students are eligible for all three levels of honors.

ALL HONORS CANDIDATES

Grades in all economics concentration courses are averaged to give an "economics GPA." This includes Ec 10, required math courses, and the introductory statistics requirement. Due to timing, grades from the Spring semester are not factored into this calculation. (They are, however, factored into your College (Latin) honors recommendation.) Conversion of letter grades follows the standard Harvard 4.0 grade scale. Honors exam scores are normalized to have the same mean and standard deviation as the GPA distribution of all test takers. In making honors recommendations, the Department also takes into account the strength of a student's program (e.g., Economics 1011a/b vs. 1010a/b, Statistics 110/111 vs. 104 or 100).

THESIS WRITERS

Each thesis has two readers who provide a grade for the thesis. The average of these thesis grades is translated into a numerical score on a 4.0 scale, using the grade conversion below. The penalty for late theses is .06 points per day, with the weekend counting as one day.

The calculation of honors is a weighted average based on 40 percent economics GPA, 40 percent thesis, and 20 percent honors exam. If your average thesis grade is *magna+* or above, we make an alternative calculation of 30 percent economics GPA, 50 percent thesis, and 20 percent honors exam. The *high honors* recommendation from the Department ordinarily requires a minimum grade of *magna-* on the thesis. The *highest honors* recommendation requires outstanding scores in all three areas; a performance below the highest level in any area would ordinarily be sufficient to prevent a *highest honors* recommendation. In addition, all candidates for *highest honors* will be given an oral exam.

ADVANCED COURSE TRACK CANDIDATES

For students on the Advanced Course Track (ACT), the calculation of honors is a weighted average based on 70 percent economics GPA and 30 percent honors exam. Students on the ACT can receive a maximum recommendation of *honors*. To receive an *honors* recommendation from the department, the weighted average honors calculation must be 3.25 or higher.

THESIS GRADE CONVERSION

Thesis Avg Grade	Numerical Score	Course Grade
summa	4.000	A
summa-	3.875	A
magna+	3.750	A
magna	3.625	A-
magna-	3.500	B+
cum+	3.375	B+
cum	3.250	B+
cum-	3.125	B
No distinction[*]		

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[*] In the case of "No Distinction," the course grade will be determined in consultation with the Thesis Advisor and Ec 985 Instructor. In the case of a borderline grade (e.g., A-/B+), the course grade will be determined by the Ec 985 Instructor.