This form is a mechanism for encouraging prospective thesis writers to start thinking about their theses sooner rather than later. If you plan to write a thesis next year, now is the time to get started. On the reverse, please provide us with either:

1. The name and signature of a professor who has agreed to be your thesis advisor next year, or
2. The names of three faculty with whom you have communicated, either in person or via e-mail, about the possibility of their being your advisor.

Please return this form by May 15 to the Economics Undergraduate Office (Litt 112).

This form is not meant to box you in or punish "late starters." We will not prevent you from writing a thesis if you do not return the form. The goal is to indicate as clearly as we can that getting started early is an excellent first step toward writing a good thesis. The research process involves many stops and starts, even for experienced researchers. Sometimes a thesis topic initially sounds good but data are not available. Sometimes a topic is great but turns out to have already been published. Sometimes a particular advisor/advisee pairing is not a good fit. If you start early, you have time to recover from any of these pitfalls. You also get the chance to think more deeply about your topic, get started on collecting data, and talk to more people about your research, which is one key part of the research process.

Thus, this form is strong signal and recommendation, rather than a binding requirement. We nevertheless ask you to turn the form in because that can identify students who might need extra help as well as advisors who are over or under utilized.

In the fall, you will have to submit an "official" thesis registration form, at which time you must have a thesis advisor. If you choose to change your advisor in the fall from the one who has signed below, be sure to inform any professor who has signed below, as this will free up an advising space for someone else.

Best of luck!

Ec Advising Team
Student Name ____________________________________________________________
House _________________________________________________________________
Email _________________________________________________________________
Potential Thesis Area of Interest _____________________________________________

Please answer one of the two sections below:

1. I have a thesis advisor:

Thesis Advisor (please print) ________________________________________________
Advisor Affiliation (FAS, HBS, KSG, etc.) ______________________________________
Advisor Signature __________________________________________________________

2. I do not yet have an advisor, but I have communicated with the following faculty about thesis topics and/or the possibility of being my advisor:

Faculty (name): ____________________________________________________________
Method of communication: e-mail / office hours / house dinner / other____________________

Faculty (name): ____________________________________________________________
Method of communication: e-mail / office hours / house dinner / other____________________

Faculty (name): ____________________________________________________________
Method of communication: e-mail / office hours / house dinner / other____________________