

Economics Dept. Senior Thesis Program

April 3, 2019
Ec Advising Team

Goals for Today

- 1) Overview of All Things Thesis
- 2) Tips to make the most of the next ~6 weeks

WHAT is a Thesis?

the·sis /'THēsis/

noun

A dissertation on a particular subject in which one has done original research, as one presented by a candidate for a diploma or degree.

Source: Dictionary.com

- Unique contribution to knowledge
- Like a journal article

WHY write a Thesis?

- Major, exciting intellectual endeavor
- Deeply explore something YOU are curious about
- Draw together 3 years of tools, training, knowledge to answer YOUR question
- Good for grad school!
- Good for not grad school!
- Truly understand what “research” entails

From a Thesis Alum

“For most of college I was an executor: you gave me a textbook to read or a problem set to do, and I could spit it out for you. Given the inputs, I could produce the outputs.

But it wasn't until I wrote a thesis that I started asking the questions myself, deciding for myself what inputs I needed... There's a confidence that comes with it that I never had before.”

HOW to write a senior thesis?

Topic

- What are you curious about?
- What would you like to understand better?
- What papers/topics/classes have you enjoyed?
- What do you disagree with?
- What excites you in current events?
- Not too broad, not too narrow
- Browse journals, old theses
- TALK to people

Tip #1:
Think about your potential areas of interest. Read, explore, talk with others!

Advisor

- You must have one.
- It will take time.

Strategy

- 1) Get names (use [sortable thesis advisor list](#))
- 2) Visit OH or email them
- 3) Arrange meetings
- 4) Be reasonably prepared
- 5) Don't give up!

Tip #2:
Come up with a list of at least 7 profs who are relevant for your topic(s) of interest.

Tip #3:
Schedule a meeting with at least 3 profs before you leave campus in May.

Ec 985

- Required full-year Thesis Research Seminar
- Led by Instructor
- 10-12 peers per seminar
- Weekly meetings in different formats

Ec 985 goals

- Provide structure, support, feedback
- Foster steady progress
- Aid transition from *student* to *scholar*

documents, details, dates...

Documents

- Thesis Guide
- Thesis Interest form
- Advice sheet
- Previous thesis titles
- Sortable Thesis Advisor sheet

(details on [Ec Thesis page](#))

Details

- Funding
- Stata
- Libraries
- Human Subjects and IRB (2 training sessions left: April 15, May 2)
- Escape hatch
- AM/Ec

(details on [Ec Thesis page](#))

Important Dates

Spring 2019

- **5/2:** Lunchtime Poster Session, Class of 2019 Ec Theses
- **5/10:** Submit the “Thesis Interest Form”

Fall 2019

- **First week:** Thesis Registration Meeting
- **Add/Drop deadline:** Must have thesis advisor
- **March 12, 2020:** SUBMIT FINAL THESIS!

Final Thoughts...

- It's an adventure!
- We're here for you.
 - Ec Advising OH, Prof. Miron, Ec House Tutors, Dani Doyle, newly-thesised Seniors

Tip #4:

Listen to your
wise, experienced,
amazing senior
peers (and your
concentration
advisors). 😊

*"It was painful at times, and to be honest, I was almost ready to give up... but we pushed through. **I am so glad I got to do this.**"*

--Ec Thesis Alum

LET THE ADVENTURE
BEGIN!