Economics Dept.
Senior Thesis Program

March 27, 2018
Ec Advising Team
WHAT is a Thesis?

thesis /ˈTHēsis/

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 not for grad school!
- Truly understand what “research” entails
“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
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!
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

(details on Ec Thesis page)
Details

- Human Subjects and IRB
- Funding
- Stata
- Libraries

*(details on Ec Thesis page)*

Also (but don’t worry about this now!):
- Grades & Honors
- Escape hatch
Important Dates

Spring 2018

- **4/26**: Lunchtime Poster Session, Class of 2018 Ec Theses
- **5/11**: Submit the “Thesis Interest Form”

Fall 2018

- **First week**: Thesis Registration Meeting
- **Add/Drop deadline**: Must have thesis advisor
- **March 14, 2019**: SUBMIT FINAL THESIS!
Final Thoughts...

- It’s an adventure!
- We’re here for you
  - Ec Advising OH, email, ...

“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 ‘14
LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN.