

Amherst College Department of Economics  
The Honors Thesis: An Approximate Timeline

**Junior Year**

- December* Attend thesis proposal presentations given by seniors
- March,*  
*April* Start talking to faculty about your ideas and interests.  
Attend thesis presentations given by seniors. (usually last week of April)  
Attend thesis information session. (usually last week of April)
- May* Talk to faculty about your ideas and interests,  
make a plan for summer reading or preliminary research.  
\*Turn in form declaring intention to do a thesis and identifying general topic areas.

**Senior Year**

- August* Do summer reading, assigned and/or relevant to your area(s) of interest.
- September* \*Turn in a preliminary proposal identifying topic areas and possible questions.  
Start thesis seminar.  
Research potential topics, choose/develop/refine topic.  
Preliminary advisor assignments are made; meet regularly with advisor.  
Meet with faculty, read the literature, develop your thoughts.  
Present preliminary version of thesis proposal to the seminar.
- October,*  
*November* Develop research skills. Meet regularly with preliminary advisor.  
Do further research, develop and hone proposal, find data (for an empirical thesis).  
Begin writing portions of the thesis. Present versions of the thesis proposal.
- December* \*Present final thesis proposal to the Department. (usually 1st week of December)  
Advisor is assigned. Meet with advisor to make a work plan.
- January* Start researching and writing full time. (expect to spend most of January on your thesis)  
Provide advisor with an agreed-upon assignment before the new semester begins.  
(such as a chapter, literature review, theoretical development, or preliminary data analysis)  
\*Present Interterm progress to the Department. (usually final day of Interterm)
- February,*  
*March* Continue work on the thesis. (reading, theory, analysis, writing)  
Meet with your advisor regularly (usually 1-3 times weekly), and set intermediate deadlines for particular chapters or pieces of analysis.  
Turn in drafts of chapters (or the whole thesis) to your advisor at agreed-upon intervals.
- April* Turn in a Prospectus (one page summary of the thesis) (usually 1<sup>st</sup> week of April)  
\*\*Turn in the Thesis (one week after the prospectus, usually 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April)  
Faculty read your thesis. (Your advisor, and two other faculty members)  
\*\*Present your research to the Department (faculty, students) in a 15-20 minute oral presentation. (usually a few days after you turn in the thesis)  
Meet with your advisor and faculty readers to discuss your thesis.
- May* Turn in the final copy and relevant files to Economics ADC Amy Johnson.  
(usually one week after the presentations).  
You are done!

*NB: This timeline is meant to give students an idea of the approximate timeline for the economics thesis.  
It does not reflect official Departmental or College guidelines, and it may vary from year to year.  
Official requirements and deadlines are available elsewhere.*