

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 panel. (usually last week of April)
- May* Talk to faculty about your ideas and interests,  
possibly get suggestions for summer reading or preliminary research.

***Senior Year***

- August* Do preliminary summer reading.
- September* Start thesis seminar.  
Research potential topics, choose a topic.  
Meet with faculty, read the literature, develop your thoughts.  
Present preliminary version of thesis proposal to the seminar.
- October,*  
*November* Preliminary advisor assignments are made; meet regularly with preliminary advisor.  
Do further research, develop and hone proposal, find data (for an empirical thesis)
- 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. (you should expect to spend most of January on your thesis)  
Provide advisor with an agreed-upon assignment by the first week of the new semester.  
(such as a chapter, literature review, theoretical development, or preliminary data analysis)
- 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 in mid-April)  
\*\*Turn in the Thesis (one week after the prospectus, usually 3<sup>rd</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 20-30 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, including a CD with relevant files, to Jeanne Reinle.  
(usually one week after the presentations).  
You are done!

\*\*Disclaimer: This timeline is meant to give students an idea of the approximate timeline for the economics thesis. It does not reflect firm or official departmental or college guidelines, and it may vary from year to year. Official requirements and deadlines are available elsewhere, and should be consulted if desired. \*\*