Graduation with Distinction: Economics (ECON)

Procedure for selection of students
Economics majors with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major and 3.3 overall are eligible for acceptance. Students must submit an application form by October 15 of their senior year for consideration.

Expected product
An honors thesis is to be completed during the student’s senior year, representing a degree of research and critical thinking sufficiently complex and sophisticated as to require two to three semesters’ worth of work. The proposed program of research must be approved in advance by the faculty supervisor and the thesis must be delivered to EcoTeach by April 15.

There are three paths that students can follow to produce a thesis:

• Students may take, in the spring of their junior year, an Honors Junior Research Workshop (Economics 201S); then take, in the fall of their senior year, an Honors Senior Research Workshop (Economics 202S) in their area of study. This path requires a total of six electives. The two workshops (Economics 201S and 202S) can count as electives.

• Students may enroll in Honors Seminar I (Economics 198S) in the fall semester of their senior year and Honors Seminar II (Economics 199S) in the spring semester of their senior year. This path requires a total of six electives. Economics 198S and 199S can count as electives.

• Students may enroll in a Research Independent Study (Economics 193) in the fall of their senior year. Students choosing this path enroll by gaining the approval of a specific faculty member and the director of undergraduate studies. Then, in the spring of their senior year, students must enroll in either Honors Research Independent Study (Economics 204) or Honors Seminar II (Economics 199S). This path requires a total of seven electives. Economics 193, 199S and 204 can count as electives.

Expected body
A departmental thesis review committee.
Evaluative procedure
For path 1, completion of the workshops does not guarantee graduation with distinction, but is a possible path if the honors thesis is awarded a minimum grade of B+. The instructor and an outside reader will determine this grade. If taking paths 2 or 3, the honors committee will determine if the thesis qualifies.

Levels of distinction
Two levels: Distinction and High Distinction.

Special courses, other activities required, comments
The department offers Davies Fellowships to allow nominated undergraduates to continue work on their research topic over the summer between their junior and senior years. Successful candidates will be recognized at an honors reception in April and at the departmental graduation ceremony in May.

See Also:

- Department of Economics
- Application Form
- Graduation with Distinction