

Heavener School of Business Economics Honors Thesis Requirements

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

To graduate with honors, Heavener School of Business students must earn the specified GPA for their catalog year in **ALL THREE** of the following areas: 1) overall UF GPA, 2) business core GPA, and 3) major GPA. In addition, students who wish to graduate magna and summa cum laude must write an honors thesis (see guidelines below). To be eligible to enroll in an honors thesis course, you must complete 90 credit hours and have the GPAs required for the magna cum laude designation. Note: [University Scholars Program](#) research papers can be used to fulfill the honors thesis requirement.

Students w/ Catalog Year	HONORS DESIGNATIONS & CORRESPONDING GPA REQUIREMENTS		
	Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Summa Cum Laude
2003 >	3.5 Core, Major & UF GPA	3.7 Core, Major & UF GPA + thesis	3.9 Core, Major & UF GPA +thesis

THESIS REQUIREMENTS

To graduate with the magna or summa cum laude honors designation, students must use regression analysis to test various hypotheses based on economic theory about the determinants of some phenomenon. In addition, once a preliminary topic is decided upon, students should develop hypotheses they wish to test and then ascertain whether the project is feasible; that is, are the data that are required to test the key hypotheses available? Next, researchers should determine which data they will use to test their hypotheses, gather the data, and then run the regression analyses to test their hypotheses. The honors thesis, which is a formal research paper, will describe the phenomenon being studied and why it is of interest, develop the hypotheses being tested, indicate how the data were gathered and manipulated, describe in detail whether each hypothesis is supported by the statistical results, and summarize in the conclusion what has been learned from the analysis.

Completing an honors thesis is a strenuous task, and students are strongly encouraged to devote two semesters to completing their honors thesis. The department also recommends that students take Empirical Research in Economics (ECO 4935), as the empirical paper required for this fall course can be developed into a thesis in the spring. Another useful course for honors thesis candidates is Public Choice (ECO 3532), which assigns a number of empirical articles to read and requires some data analysis. There are unlimited research topics, and students are encouraged to explore their own interests. It is also possible to take part in a faculty member's research project and to use that project as a basis for your honors thesis. In general, an honors thesis must be supervised by a faculty member who has an understanding of the subject you plan to research. For information on how to find a faculty supervisor for your project, see <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/Faculty-Tips.aspx>.

In addition to securing a faculty advisor, students must obtain departmental approval for their project from the economics department in 224 Matherly Hall via the attached [Heavener School of Business Undergraduate Honors Thesis Application below](#). If your project is approved, the economics department will register you for ECO 4970, a one credit honors thesis course which is taken for a Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) grade. You are expected to enroll in this course by the end of the drop/add period. (Note: Up to four additional free elective credits can be earned by taking ECO 4905 - Individual Work. The approval form to take this course can be obtained from the economics department office.) The faculty supervisor is responsible for determining if a student's thesis is satisfactory and for notifying the Honors Coordinator of the final grade. The Honors Coordinator will submit final grades.

THESIS SUBMISSION PROCESS

When your thesis is approved, submit a hard copy of your paper to the supervising department by the **published deadline** along with a **typewritten** copy of the [Honors Thesis Submission Form](#).

- 1) Complete an online [Honors Thesis Abstract Submission Form](#) and submit an electronic copy of your thesis to the UF Honors Program Office.
- 2) University Scholars must also submit a copy of their paper to the Journal of Undergraduate Research at cgreer@ufl.edu by the **published deadline**.

If you have questions about your honors thesis, contact your Honors Coordinator:

HONORS COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION	
Honors Coordinator	Dr. Larry Kenny
E-mail	larry.kenny@warrington.ufl.edu
Office	313 Matherly Hall
Phone	(352) 392-0117

Heavener School of Business
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Application

Part I: Student Information

Name: _____ UF ID: _____

UF E-mail Address: _____ Major: _____

Part II: Verification of GPAs (Must be completed by an advisor in 233 Bryan Hall.)

☐ < 2002 Catalog Year (3.6 magna/3.8 summa) ☐ > 2003 Catalog Year (3.7 magna/3.9 summa)
_____ Core GPA _____ Major/Area GPA _____ UF GPA

Heavener School of Business Advisor's Signature: _____

The applicant must earn these grades to earn a magna or summa cum laude (circle one) designation:

Part III: Supervising Faculty and Department Approval

Honors Thesis Title: _____

Thesis Description: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Supervising Faculty: _____ (approval)

Honors Coordinator: _____ (approval)

Course: _____ Section #: _____ Credit: _____ Semester: _____ Year: _____

Honors Thesis Submissions Deadline: Deliver one copy of your thesis and one copy of your typewritten [Honors Thesis Submission Form](#) to the supervising department by the [published deadline](#).