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 1-page document declaring intention to do a thesis and identifying topic areas.

Senior Year

August	Do summer reading, both assigned and relevant to your area(s) of interest.
September	*Turn in 2-page document identifying topic areas and detailing particular questions. Preliminary advisor assignments are made; meet regularly with advisor. 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	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 by the first week of the new semester. (such as a chapter, literature review, theoretical development, or preliminary data analysis) **Present Interterm progress to the Department. (usually last week of January)
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 2nd week of April) **Turn in the Thesis (one week after the prospectus, usually 3rd 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!

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