

# Senior Thesis Preregistration Form

Department of Economics

rev. Feb. 2008

This form is a mechanism for encouraging prospective thesis writers to start thinking about their theses sooner rather than later. If you plan to write a thesis next year, now is the time to get started. In the space below, we ask you to provide us with either:

1. The name and signature of a professor who has agreed to be your thesis advisor next year, or
2. The names of three faculty with whom you have communicated, either in person or via e-mail, about the possibility of their being your advisor.

Please return this form by **April 15th** to the Economics Undergraduate Office in Littauer 111/113.

This form is not meant to box you in or punish “late starters.” We will not prevent you from writing a thesis if you fail to return the form. The goal is merely to indicate as clearly as we can that getting started early is an excellent first step toward writing a good thesis. The research process involves many stops and starts, even for experienced researchers. Sometimes a thesis topic sounds good at first but it turns out data are not available. Sometimes a topic is great but turns out to have already been published. Sometimes a particular advisor/advisee pairing is not a good fit. If you start early, you have time to recover from any of these pitfalls. You also get the chance to think more deeply about your topic, get started on collecting data, and talk to more people about your research, which is one key part of the research process.

Thus, this form is strong signal and recommendation, rather than a binding requirement. We nevertheless ask you to turn the form in because that can identify students who might need extra help as well as advisors who are over or under utilized.

In addition to this preliminary form, an “official” thesis registration form will be required early in the fall, at which time you *must* have a thesis advisor. If you choose to change your advisor in the fall from the one who has signed below, be sure to inform any professor who has signed below, as this will free up an advising space for someone else.

One other piece of advice: if you plan to write a thesis, taking a junior seminar is excellent preparation (even if the seminar is in a different area of economics). Students who take these seminars get valuable experience with the research process; they get to know a faculty member who can help steer them to a good advisor; and they sometimes identify a topic for the seminar paper that can be expanded and extended into a thesis.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Thesis Topic of Area of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please answer one of the two sections below:

**1. I have a thesis advisor:**

Thesis Advisor (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Affiliation (FAS, HBS, KSG, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. I do not yet have an advisor, but I have communicated with the follows faculty about thesis topics and/or the possibility of being my advisor:

Faculty Number 1 (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Method of communication (e-mail, office hours, house dinner, etc)

Faculty Number 2 (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Method of communication (e-mail, office hours, house dinner, etc)

Faculty Number 3 (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Method of communication (e-mail, office hours, house dinner, etc)