



BA AND BSC HONOURS IN ECONOMICS

INFORMATION SESSION



University
of Victoria

WHAT IS THE HONOURS PROGRAM?

- Final year of BA, BSc, or BSc FME for high achieving students
- Small classes, increased access to faculty, stimulating intellectual environment
- Anchored by ECON 499 (Honours Seminar) - Fall and Spring
 - how to conduct research
 - exploration of research methods
 - how to present research
 - how to write (proposals, introductions, lit reviews, results)
 - insights into grad school, the labour market, publishing, ethics in research
- Research project leading to the Honours Thesis; individually supervised by a faculty member
- Excellent preparation for graduate studies in Economics or related areas. The intention to pursue graduate studies, however, is not a requirement for admission.
- Additional course requirements: ECON 400 and 401 for BSc students

WHY DO HONOURS?

- Do original research in a supportive and stimulating environment.
 - Immerse yourself in a topic of interest to you.
 - Find out what grad school is going to be like.
 - Get to know faculty and other students better.
 - Improve your communication skills.
 - Meet guest speakers when they visit U Vic.
 - Learn cutting edge research methods and apply them to your own project.
 - Improve your odds of getting into a top graduate program, succeeding there, and excelling in your career.
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HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- Apply in late April/mid May before your last year.
- Admission to the Honours Program is by selection.
- Year-long Honours Seminar (Econ 499).
- Honours thesis under supervision of a faculty member.
- Submission and defence of thesis in April.

IMPORTANT: Ensure that you can fulfill all calendar requirements (for BSc students this includes completing Econ 365-366, and Econ 400-401)

RESEARCH TOPICS: DRIVEN BY YOUR INTERESTS

Covers any area that a current faculty member is willing to supervise!

Not sure what you want to do – talk to faculty, especially in courses you like. They can point you in good directions.



PLANNING AHEAD – PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- The program requirements for the Honours programs require some planning especially the BSc and the BSc Financial Mathematics and Economics.
- The requirements are here: [BA Honours](#), [BSc Honours](#), and [BSc FME Honours](#)
- Planning sheets for these degrees are available here: [Planning Sheets](#)
- If you are interested – start working through the planning sheets as soon as possible as timing of courses can be very important. Ideally, in your second year at the latest.
- Once you have completed your planning sheet (as best as you can), you should consult the undergraduate advisor (ecadvice@uvic.ca) to ensure that you have a clear path to meeting all your graduation requirements.

PLANNING AHEAD – PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (CONT)

- Some common planning issues
 - For the BSc Honours – make sure to take 313, 350 (fall), and 351 (spring) in your third year. These are pre-requisites for ECON 400 and 401 in your fourth year. This means planning your second year accordingly.
 - For the BSc Honours – if you can, take ECON 365 and ECON 366 (or at least the former) in 3rd year.
 - For the BA and the BSC - take at least some econometrics (minimum of 345) before starting your honours year. Most students do empirical work for their thesis and some knowledge of econometric methods prior to choosing a thesis topic is essential (ECON 245-246 are not enough).
- For BA Honours: You might want to take 400 even if it's not required. The key pre-requisites are ECON 313 and 350. It may be possible to do ECON 350 concurrently. Check with the instructor – it is their call.
- For BSc FME: very restrictive program; planning must be done very carefully.

REQUIREMENT WAIVERS

- In some cases, we may grant conditional acceptance until grades from courses over summer are in.
- Note that ECON 313 and ECON 345 are usually offered in summer. You need these to do the honours programs (BA or BSc)
- In exceptional cases, we may choose to waive minimum grade requirements for admission to the program. But only for very good reasons.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING: JCURA

- The department can nominate three students per year for the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (\$1500). There is often a second call for additional nominations.
- You don't need to be an honours student to apply, but non-honours students will compete with applications from honours students.
- A single form passes from the student applicant through to the proposed supervisor and the chair of the Department.
- Students awarded a JCURA also present their projects in a dedicated JCURA fair (poster sessions taking place in mid-March).

APPLICATIONS

Applications are due by 15 May

To apply, use the following link:
[ECON Honours Application](#) (the link will also be on the department website). Or use the QR code:

