Economics

Senior Projects

A senior project in economics usually blends together a student's employment and subject area interests. Projects in special areas of interest are also approved. A project is usually produced in an area in which the student has taken some course work or otherwise has some background.

Students should discuss their plans for a senior project with a faculty member in the Economics Program and submit an acceptable written proposal to the faculty member and the Chair of the Department no later than May 1st of their junior year. At that time, students are encouraged to consider alternative topics in case the chosen topic is not feasible. An investigation of the feasibility of the proposal should be seriously explored during the summer before the senior year. The preliminary form should be resubmitted to the project advisor and the Chair of the Department at the end of the second week of classes in the fall of the senior year with appropriate signatures of the student, project advisor, and chair of the department. This will constitute formal acceptance of the project by the department. Projects in the Economics Program are two hours of academic credit except for dual majors who write three credit hour Senior Projects.

**Topics of discussion with a project advisor to be completed by May 1st of the junior year should include:**

A) The title of the project generally stated in the form of a question to be answered.

B) The goals and purpose of the study generally stated in the form of a hypothesis to be tested.

C) The scope of the study. What will be included and what will not be included in the project.

D) The method of study. A discussion of the analytical processes to be used in the study including theoretical analysis, model building, accounting analysis, financial analysis, statistical analysis, analytical geometry, quantitative or econometric techniques such as linear programming, Baysian probability, Markov chain analysis, maximum minimum calculations, simulations, transportation models, space models, etc.

E) A discussion of the type of data required for the analysis and the availability of primary and secondary data obtainable at the library or from personal interviews and random sampling.

F) A discussion of the history and background of the topic, related studies, relevant background readings, personal experiences, etc.

G) A discussion of the possible problems associated with the topic.

H) A discussion of possible backup topics.

**The format of the paper should include the following:**

A) A Title Page including the title of the project, name of the student, Economics Program, Department of Physical & Computational Sciences, and submission date.

B) An Abstract

C) Table of Contents

D) Table of Tables and Figures if appropriate

E) Introduction and Statement of Purpose

F) History and Background

G) Description of Procedures

H) Analysis - Primary emphasis should be given to the analytic section of the project.

I) Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

J) Appendices if appropriate

K) Bibliography

**Senior Project Grade**

1) **Five percent** of the grade will be based upon the **quality** of the Senior Project Outline which will be handed in ECON 476 on the second Thursday of October.

2) **Ten percent** of the grade will be based upon the **quality** of the Introduction, Statement of Purpose, and Literature Survey which will be handed in ECON 476 At the time the final exam is scheduled for.

3) **Thirty five** percent of the grade will be based upon the **quality** of the rough draft. It is due the day after Spring Break. The thirty five percent will be broken down as follows.

A) Fifty percent of the project grade will be based on the **quality** of the analysis.

B) Thirty percent of the project grade will be based on the writing **quality**. See

the Bethany Writing Guide on the next page.

C) Ten percent of the project grade will be based on the **quality** of sources.

D) Ten percent of the project grade will be based on the organization and **quality** of the project as presented in the final form.

4) **Fifty percent** of the grade will be based upon the **quality** of the final draft. It is due two weeks before the end of classes. The fifty percent will be broken down as follows.

A) Fifty percent of the project grade will be based on the **quality** of the analysis.

B) Thirty percent of the project grade will be based on the writing **quality**. See

the Bethany Writing Guide on the next page.

C) Ten percent of the project grade will be based on the **quality** of sources.

D) Ten percent of the project grade will be based on the organization and **quality** of the project as presented in the final form.

An assignment is not considered to be handed in until there is an electronic copy turned in on Moodle and a hard copy is given to the advisor.

The font must be Times New Roman. We recommend either an 11 or a 12 font.

Bethany College Writing Rubric

**A level** writing demonstrates a high degree of competence in response to the assignment, although there could be a few minor errors which do not interfere with communication. The essay:

1. is well-organized and coherently developed (purpose and structure)
2. clearly explains and/or illustrates key ideas (development)
3. demonstrates syntactic variety and clearly displays facility in the use of language (language and style)
4. includes few minor errors in mechanics, usage, and/or sentence structure (mechanics)
5. fully acknowledges the ideas of others

**B level** writing demonstrates clear competence in response to the assignment but may have minor errors which do not significantly interfere with communication. The essay:

1. is generally well organized and coherently developed
2. explains and/or illustrates key ideas
3. demonstrates some syntactic variety and displays facility in the use of language
4. is generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure
5. acknowledges the ideas of others

**C level** writing demonstrates competence in response to the assignment but may have errors which only minimally interfere with communication. The essay:

1. is adequately organized and developed
2. explains and/or illustrates some of the key ideas
3. demonstrates acceptable facility with language
4. displays some errors in mechanics, usage, or sentence structure, but not a consistent pattern of such errors
5. usually acknowledges the ideas of others, or may inappropriately acknowledge those ideas

**D level** writing demonstrates some degree of competence in response to the assignment, but includes serious flaws. The essay reveals one or more of the following weaknesses:

1. inadequate organization or development
2. inadequate explanation or illustration of key ideas
3. a pattern or accumulation of errors in mechanics, usage, or sentence structure
4. limited or inappropriate word choice
5. may fail to acknowledge the ideas of others

**F level** writing demonstrates limited competence, serious flaws, and/or fundamental deficiencies in writing skills. The essay manifests one or more of the following weaknesses:

1. poor organization and/or very little or no development
2. incoherence
3. little or no relevant detail
4. serious or persistent errors in mechanics, usage, sentence structure, and/or word choice
5. fails to acknowledge the ideas of others

A penalty of 8% will be assessed on each assignment which is late. In addition, there will be a 2% penalty for each class day the assessment is late. Therefore, if the outline is due on a Tuesday in October, and it is handed in on the following Monday, the outline will be assessed a 16% penalty because it is late (8%) and because it was handed in four class days late (an additional 8%). These penalties may be waived if a student has extenuating circumstances. **An assignment is not considered to be handed in until there is an electronic copy turned in on Moodle and a hard copy is given to the advisor.**

1) Submission of the formal topic including a Problem Statement and Introduction on the day set in ECON 476, usually the third week of classes in the fall semester.

2) A required detailed outline of the project is due by mid-term day set in ECON 476, usually the seventh week of classes of the fall semester. At that time, an extensive literature search as indicated by your bibliography should be completed. The quality of your data sources will be an important part of the evaluation.

3) A rough draft of the project in hard copy as well as an electronic copy (on Canvas) is due on the Friday before spring break, March 15th. A rough draft is defined to be essentially a completed project with conclusions and recommendations. At this point, the project should only need minor changes. The analysis, writing quality, and organization of the project will be evaluated.

4) The final draft is due two weeks before seniors are out of class to study for the comprehensive exams. For seniors who have already taken the comprehensive exams the final draft is due two weeks before the last day of classes. At that time, the rough draft along with three unbound copies, one electronic copy on Moodle, and the completed final project form with appropriate signatures must be turned into the project advisor or the chair of the department.

5) Permission to change topics after the submission of the final topic in the fall needs to be approved by the student’s project advisor and the other economist. In this case, new deadlines will be established by the project advisor and the chair of the department.

6) Specific deadlines will also be established by the advisor and the chair of the department for students who want to accelerate the process one semester or delay the process for one semester.

Because this the Senior Project is classified as a “writing intensive” class, you must talk with your advisor at least twice during the semester. We recommend weekly meetings.

Three unbound copies of the final project and one electronic copy of the final project on Moodle along with the appropriate signatures on the final approval form available in the registrar’s office or on the library’s web page must be turned in when the final draft is due. See <http://www.bethanywv.edu/academics/library/senior-project-form> <http://libguides.bethanywv.edu/students>

Students who finish their academic work in December may choose to submit their finished project in December or comply with the above deadlines. The deadline dates will restart the following year for students who do not graduate in four years.

Application

For

Senior Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Field of Concentration\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of project \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date for completion \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Project advisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of credit hours \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Second reviewer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I. Project proposal description:

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II. Approval of Proposal

Faculty Advisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_