

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIELD PAPER IN LABOR ECONOMICS 2026-2027

Students seeking to complete the Labor Economics field at UCLA are required to write a research paper during their second year. The labor group has designed the second year paper process to take you through the *process* of finding a research question (something faculty do all the time), provide you with written and verbal feedback at several points over the year to help you choose a great (and feasible) research question, and write your 2nd year paper (or a very detailed paper proposal if obtaining results is not feasible). This paper will contribute to the completion of the formal ATC requirements and should also set students up for success in their third year as they transition to dissertation writing.

The paper must use primary data sources and must represent the author's original work.

### Important Deadlines

**January 9, 2027 (hard deadline):** Two-page memo containing two preliminary paper ideas.

The idea is to get feedback, not be complete. There will be no extensions without documentation of extenuating circumstances.

**April 30, 2027 (hard deadline):** Two-page memo containing two *new* preliminary paper ideas.

The idea is to get feedback, not be complete. There will be no extensions without documentation of extenuating circumstances.

**Spring quarter:** Assigned faculty mentors will work with students to choose one of the four ideas.

Students will present one of the selected ideas over 10-15 minutes (exact time TBD depending upon the number of students) to present in the applied proseminar (date TBD but anticipated in mid-May).

**June 12, 2027:** Final summer research plan.

Shortly after the presentations, faculty and students finalize a written research plan with the requirements for completing 2nd year paper/paper proposal. Include deadlines for different parts, a writing schedule, and times to check in with your advisors.

**August 31, 2027:** Final draft of 2nd-year paper/proposal due (~9000 Words).

You have the summer to implement your research plan. If you have done a good job developing a question, getting feedback, and finalizing the details in your research plan, you should be set up for success.

Implementing should just require some planning. Each paper will be reviewed by at least 2 faculty and will be assigned a grade of Honors Pass, PhD Pass or Master's Pass, or Fail. An Honors Pass or a PhD Pass are considered passing grades. A Masters Pass is a failing grade. Papers that are not submitted on time will automatically be given a Master's Pass or Fail.

*Successfully implementing your research plan and turning in a polished paper should result in a passing grade. There should be no surprises if you stick to the research plan.*

**September 15, 2027:** Resubmission of paper for students with a failing grade.

Submission of the paper at this time should be construed as equivalent to a second attempt at a field examination. The grades are determined in the same manner as described above. The paper will be reviewed

by at least 2 faculty. If the paper does not meet the standard of a Ph.D. pass, the student will have failed the Labor Economics field and will have exhausted all options for demonstrating competency in Labor Economics at UCLA.