Guidelines for Econometrics Paper
UCSC Economics Department

The econometrics paper is in lieu of a preliminary exam in econometrics. The paper is organized by the econometrics faculty that taught your first year courses (Econ 211A, B & C). While they may refer you to a specific faculty member to provide advising, the econometrics faculty have ultimate responsibility for the paper.

There are two options for the econometrics paper: (1) replication of a recent empirical paper, or (2) own research. While option 2 is encouraged, option 1 is the default.

**Basic Guidelines for Option 1**

- You should identify a paper to reproduce no later than the second week of June

- Students should pick a paper that they find interesting. The paper should be published in a top economics journal within the past few years. However, it is up to the econometrics faculty to approve a paper for replication. Older papers or papers in lower-ranked journals will be approved only in particular circumstances.

- You must extend the analysis of the paper in some way. For example, you could use additional datasets. You could also perform robustness checks, or other regressions than the original authors did not.

- Many journals now post the data and analysis files on their websites. **It is not acceptable to simply run these analysis files without additional work.**

**Basic Guidelines for Option 2**

- You should identify a topic and get it approved by a faculty member no later than the second week of June though ideally you should select a topic well before this

- Approval for this option depends on your convincing the faculty member that the topic of your project is interesting and novel and that it is feasible to complete the project by August 31st. A major stumbling block for many students has been acquiring the data so it is best to have the data in hand before committing to a project.

For both options the paper is due on September 30th of the 2nd year.