Applying for Research Assistantships and/or Graduate School
Research-focused career after ASU

Research assistantships at government agencies
- Federal reserve, CBO, CEA, Treasury, State&Local

Directly moving on to grad school
- Apply for PhD programs in economics
Apply for RA-ship and/or PhD program

Junior

Fall

Spring

Senior

Fall

Spring

Start your PhD (in Economics)

Become a Research Assistant
Many application items to prepare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Research Assistant Position</th>
<th>Graduate program Econ PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transcript</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum vitae / Resume</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of recommendation</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE score</td>
<td>Useful</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing sample</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statement of purpose</td>
<td>Useful</td>
<td>Useful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover letter</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission fee</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get an early start preparing your materials

- Getting together and editing materials is time consuming

Look for examples and ask for feedback

- Look for examples on the web
- Ask peers/advisers/career office/professors to review
# Emphasize curriculum choice in CV

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Many applicants have a line with “relevant course work” that lists research oriented coursework they have done. Some summarize broad emphasis of curriculum choice.

Get an early start preparing your materials:

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# Recommendations based on research

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<tr>
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<td>Submission fee</td>
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Most impactful letters of recommendation are from faculty with which students have had a working relationship. In particular, with whom they have done research.

Get an early start preparing your materials

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Look for examples and ask for feedback

- Look for examples on the web
- Ask peers/advisers/career office/professors to review
Prioritize when you prepare

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transcript</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE score</td>
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<td>Very important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing sample</td>
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<td>Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of purpose</td>
<td>Unimportant</td>
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</table>

Discuss list of positions/schools you apply to with recommenders

- Makes their letters more focused
- Helps you strategize and (often) aim high
- Prevents you from applying to places that are not good match
Always maintain an up-to-date CV

You never know what opportunity comes your way...
Always have your resume ready...

Hobijn McDaniel  04/27/18  ASU-Economics-Advising
Pursue research opportunities early

Junior
Fall
Spring

Do research for faculty, tutor other students, or assist faculty with teaching

Senior
Fall
Spring

Ask for recommendation letters, preferably from research faculty

Become a Research Assistant

Start your PhD (in Economics)
Take the GRE test early

- **Fall**: Junior
  - GRE Test
- **Spring**: Junior
  - GRE Redo
- **Fall**: Senior
  - GRE Redo
- **Spring**: Senior

Gives you time for a redo in case you underperform on first try
Target the right application windows

Junior
Fall
Spring

Fall
Spring

Senior

Application: Oct-Mar

Application: Oct-Nov

Become a Research Assistant
Start your PhD (in Economics)
Maximize chance of positive outcome

Junior
- Fall
- Spring

Senior
- Fall
- Spring

Decisions: Nov-April

Decisions: Jan-April

Become a Research Assistant

Start your PhD (in Economics)
Applying for RA-ships and PhD programs

Make choices now in anticipation of future application

- Choose the curriculum that prepares you best
- Pursue research opportunities on campus early
- Start preparing for your applications in your junior year

Reach out to potential recommenders early

- Preferably faculty you have worked with
- Ask them for advice on where to apply
- Ask for recommendation letters

Preparation of applications is time consuming

- Many different items need to be prepared
- Focus on the ones that are most important