

TO: Junior Majors in Economics
FROM: Steven Nafziger, Economics Department Director of Research
RE: Class of 1960 Scholars in Economics

On behalf of the Economics department, I would like to invite you to apply for admission to the Class of 1960 Scholars program.

Class of 1960 Scholars participate in a series of specially designed seminars, presented by leading economists from academic, public policy, and nonprofit institutions. Participation in these seminars will provide you with opportunities to read and discuss cutting-edge research, and to experience the intellectual give-and-take that is an essential element of the research process. Research seminars will give you a chance to engage with economic issues in a setting that is quite different from the normal classroom environment. Coffee hours, lunches, and post-seminar dinners will also allow you to interact informally with the visiting speakers, along with members of the Williams faculty.

Those chosen to be in the program join in the spring of the junior year, and participate for three semesters (junior spring, senior fall, and senior spring). There are typically four to five seminars per semester and you are encouraged to attend all of them if you can. The seminars span a wide range of topics within economics. The 90-minute talks are usually held at 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.

Being a Class of 1960 Scholar requires a certain level of commitment. We do not require that you attend all of the talks, but you are expected to attend at least five of them over the course of the three semesters. In cases where papers are circulated in advance, we expect you to have read the paper before the seminar, and to come to the seminar prepared to ask questions or offer comments. **Study abroad and extracurricular commitments need not stand in the way of your participation**, but you should not apply unless you can commit to attending at least five of the seminars, and at least two of the post-seminar dinners over the rest of your Williams career. Note that we hope to hold some talks and meals at alternative times during the day AND to hold additional opportunities to meet visiting speakers during their visits to allow students with various commitments to participate to the fullest extent possible in the program.

There is no minimum GPA requirement for the program. Academic achievement is one criterion for admission, but the invitation to apply is open to any economics major with interest and enthusiasm, and with a commitment to active and regular participation. While it is an especially worthwhile experience for those contemplating writing an honors thesis or applying to graduate school in economics or related fields, it will be a rewarding and fun experience for anyone interested in delving more deeply into economics.

If you are interested in being considered for the program, please fill out the following form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScExAALpgIFss-Q4w0vQr32iIUlomrygQ_IxVL9UhN31_cyQ/viewform

by **WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4, 2019 at 5 pm**. If you have any questions, please contact me at snafzige@williams.edu.