

ECO 721 RESEARCH PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

The research project for ECO 721 will be to conduct an empirical analysis of the determinants of people's retirement behavior, using the analysis extract from the PSID. A Stata (.dta) data set along with documentation is available on the class web page.

The primary requirements for the assignment are:

- a) to examine some aspect of retirement as an outcome variable using a multivariate statistical framework, and
- b) to write a 12-15 page paper (double-spaced, 12 point font, one-inch margins, page count exclusive of tables) describing the analysis.

Students are free to develop their own hypotheses and select specific statistical techniques. Students should consult and reference previous empirical studies on labor supply and/or retirement; they may also wish to review previous studies conducted using the PSID. Students are also encouraged to use or extend the statistical techniques that we have gone over in class. Students are welcome to discuss their project ideas with the instructor and to ask questions as the projects progress.

The projects should reflect individual effort. Students may consult with one another about how techniques might be applied; however, beyond this, students may not collaborate on projects. Completed projects are due by midnight on Monday, May 18, 2008. Late projects will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0, unless advance arrangements have been made with the instructor.

As discussed in class, the instructor is offering to read, review, and pre-grade papers that are submitted early. Review and revision are important parts of the research process, and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this service. The review and pre-grade offer only applies to completed drafts of the papers (narrower questions concerning the projects and papers will be addressed through informal discussions). A review may take a few days to complete, and students should build this consideration into their preparation schedules.