

The UNC Fed Challenge Team is in full swing, and we wanted to let you all know that we have a research team meeting every Wednesday, including this week, on the 27th of September. We wanted to ask if there are students in UNC ECON who would be interested in participating in the Research Team, which meets on Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in Gardner 309.

The Fed Challenge is a fun and engaging extracurricular activity that focuses on macroeconomics and specifically, the policy recommendations needed in the monetary policy sphere and under the purview of the Federal Reserve. We compete at the National level, and the Presentation Team is working towards our policy recommendation to be submitted in early October, with firm and thorough research and commentary from our Research Team colleagues. With the Research and Presentations Teams in collaboration, we must understand the key here, which is to build a *story* to tell what the Federal Reserve should do regarding the current macro environment.

The Research Team will work with the 7-person Presentation Team to learn more about the macroeconomy through the areas of financial markets, growth and price measures, labor markets, federal reserve policy analysis, and a bit of international economics. These areas will be outlined in the Google Form, that I have linked in the end of the email.

This year, we want to ensure there is a strong and productive link between the two teams and to cultivate a strong understanding of economics and analysis that stems from coursework and invaluable for other research opportunities and internships in the public and private sectors. Our current Research Team and Presentation Team have a myriad of experiences from internships in investment management, the Richmond Fed, and investment banking; research in macro-finance and household finance, and regional economics; coursework ranging from upper-level ECON and Grad-level ECON courses; and other relevant extracurriculars such as ULA-ing for various ECON courses. Altogether, we aim to combine this diverse knowledge pool to ultimately learn the policy recommendations and implications of such policies upon the American macroeconomy, going forward.

Additionally, I wanted to briefly highlight the expectations for the Fed Challenge Research Team:

- Please come to the meeting with some talking points and general ideas of what is going on within your area of research. This can help jump the conversation and lead to constructive discussion.
- It is important to take notes and stay engaged, as well learn from each other, and stay abreast with what is going around us. Our discussions will be very helpful interview preparation and recruiting for various roles, ranging in the public and private sectors, as well as linking back to the courses you learn at UNC ECON.
- Use this one-hour meeting time as an opportunity to share new ideas and also critique existing arguments and ideas. You are more than welcome to stay after 7:30 to continue talking about economics.

Meeting Structure (Roughly) for Wednesdays:

- From 6:30 PM: 5 Minute Introductions and Welcome
- 30 Minutes for group discussions and rotations too.
 - Stick with initial group assigned.
 - Then, I will direct you to another group to learn more about another side and ask questions.
- 25 Minutes
 - Wrap Up
 - *Monetary Policy Recommendations and Brainstorming – Things going forward.*
- Post 7:30 PM
 - Chit chat if needed, learn more about new topics, etc.

If you are interested in participating in the UNC Fed Challenge Research Team, please fill [this Google Form](#) by Tuesday the 26th of September at 4 PM EST so we can allocate research areas and we look forward to seeing new faces in our meeting on the 27th in Gardner 309 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Also, please contact Dr. Roark (cjroark@unc.edu) to be added to the ListServ and Teams, and for other important questions, contact Team Captain Anthony Hui (ahui@unc.edu).