**Department of Economics**

**Krieger School of Arts and Sciences**

**Johns Hopkins University**

**Progress Report, End of Fall Semester, for Fourth-year and Fifth-year Students**

The department uses these Winter Progress Reports to track the progress of students who are writing dissertations, but not yet on the market. The student and their main advisor fill this form out at the end of the fall semester. Students: Fill out your section of the form and email it to your advisor. Advisor: Read the student section, fill in the advisor section, then meet with the student to discuss what you’ve written in the form. Sign and date the form, and email it to the DGS.

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**Name: Decory Edwards**

**Date: 12/31/2023**

**Year in the program: 4th year**

**Main Advisor: Chris Carroll**

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**STUDENT SECTION**

1. Describe the nature of your fall semester meetings with your main advisor – their frequency, whether they are in-person or virtual, and whether they are one-on-one or other faculty/students are present.

Weekly, virtual one-on-one meetings.

1. Describe the nature of your fall semester meetings with other faculty/and or advisors; same information as in (1).

Infrequent. I don’t meet too much with other faculty in this department. Though, during my course with Jonathan Wright, I met with him to talk about econometrics and potential applications for my research.

1. As of the date of your last annual review, what were your main research goals to accomplish *for your job market paper* in the fall semester? Please be specific – for example, what empirical work did you want to complete, what model extensions did you want to produce.

At this point last year, I was still a bit unclear about what my top would be regarding the JMP. My goals were to be solid on the topic, and to produce enough results so that I would be able to present something in the weekly Macro seminar.

1. What progress did you make towards these job market paper goals? What problems have come up that you’ve solved, and what problems (if any) have slowed your progress?

At the beginning of the year, I learned python and made sure I understood the standard consumption-saving model from the literature. Around springtime, I used this knowledge to replicate some papers which performs exercises very similar to the idea from my JMP. From the summer onward, I worked on producing preliminary results of my JMP. Specifically, I’ve produced an infinite horizon and life cycle model of consumption-saving which performs a structural estimation of a distribution of returns across households which best matches the 2004 SCF wealth data. To close out the winter, I’ve made very descriptive notes of what extensions of the baseline model are left to be made and how to get started. Additionally, there are some additional tasks I need to do regarding additional SCF waves and recoding the results so that they use more efficient tools now available in python.

1. What papers (if any) are you working on other than your job market paper? With whom are you working on these papers? What progress have you made on these papers in the fall semester?

I am not working on any other papers just yet. However, in the last few weeks I have begun to think about questions related to my JMP that I could pursue as the second chapter of my dissertation. So far, I have been talking to my main advisor Chris about this. In the near future, I plan to talk with Nick Papageorge, Robert Moffitt, and Jonathan Wright.

1. Outline your research plan for the spring semester for the job market paper and any other papers you are working on.

My plan for the spring semester is to complete two extensions of the baseline model for my JMP: add bequest motives and portfolio choice. This should be straightforward, but there are some issues that need to be resolved and some choices to be made. From there, I plan to complete a few auxiliary tasks for the JMP, which may not be completed until the summer.

As for the second chapter, I would like to be solid on what my exact research question will be by the end of the spring. This would allow me to get much work done on beginning to answer this question over the summer. If this is fruitful, then I may be able to present these results from my potential second chapter in the student-led Macro/Finance Brownbag next fall.

**ADVISOR SECTION**

**The advisor’s comments about student progress, special concerns, goals, or other thoughts**

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**Date of meeting where conversation occurred about above:**

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Main advisor signature Date