What is Anthropology Senior Distinguished Research Recognition?

If for any reason you are not participating in the Anthropology Honors Program, but you have continued with your plans to conduct independent research with an adviser in the department of Anthropology, your adviser may nominate you to receive Distinguished Senior Research Recognition. This recognition of distinction will be awarded at graduation and is acknowledgment of the excellence of your academic and intellectual accomplishments in your studies. It is also a testament to your initiative and growth through the pursuit of an independent research project culminating in original research and a Senior Thesis.

Who is eligible to be nominated for Anthropology Distinguished Senior Research Recognition?

Senior Anthropology Majors who for any reason 1) missed applying to the Honors Program in Anthropology, or 2) are not in the Honors Program in Anthropology for any reason but are engaged in original research with an adviser in Anthropology leading to submission of a Senior Thesis that fits the criteria for an Honors Senior Thesis; and 3) are nominated by their adviser.

How do I graduate with Distinguished Senior Research Recognition?

To graduate as a Distinguished Senior Researcher you must complete and submit a Senior Thesis and be nominated by your adviser upon completion of your research and thesis. This letter must be submitted to the Honors Program Coordinator upon submission of your completed thesis, and no later than Friday Week 8 of the quarter in which you will graduate. Nomination letters must be accompanied by a final copy of your thesis.

How do I prepare for and start working towards becoming an Anthropology Distinguished Senior Researcher?

The first thing for you to do now is to meet with your adviser and agree on a detailed draft schedule of meetings and research milestones (don’t forget to write it down and keep it handy as you do your research). This schedule will help you get to the end of your research project efficiently and with a minimum of stress. You should avoid leaving large amounts of work to the last moment. Typically, you should prepare for 0.5-1 hour per week of contact with your adviser during the academic year (in person or by email) and 6-10 hours per week working on your research and thesis writing. Your adviser will help you produce the best research you are capable of, so it’s important that you seek their advice at regular intervals and follow it carefully.

Also, please share this document with your adviser, and let them know that you are working towards this goal. Give them plenty of time to read your final thesis and write a letter of nomination.

How do I write a Senior Thesis?

There are two options for the formatting of your thesis. The first option is to format your thesis as a manuscript to be submitted to a suitable peer-reviewed journal. This means you must follow the directions about word length, text size, page layout, tables, figures, etc. provided by the journal. You must discuss with your adviser if this option suits your project and to determine which journal would suit your research. The second option is 40-50 pages of double-spaced text, single sided, one inch all-round margins with a 11pt serif font (such as Times New Roman), including page numbers, an abstract and title page including your name and your adviser's name. There are many excellent resources to help you with the details of thesis-writing, one of our favorites is ‘How to Write a Better Thesis’ by David Evans and Paul Gruba, and your adviser will be able to suggest more.

Diane Guerra (Denny Hall 247, djguerra@uw.edu) in the Undergraduate Advising Offices can help you with your questions about Distinguished Senior Research Recognition.