

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

GRADUATION WITH DEPARTMENTAL DISTINCTION:

THE SENIOR THESIS

Each year, a number of Sociology and Criminology majors are selected by the department faculty to pursue graduating with Departmental Distinction.* Students are selected from among those with an overall DU GPA of 3.25 and a GPA within the Sociology or Criminology major of 3.50.

To win the designation of graduation with *Distinction in Sociology (or Criminology)*, selected students must successfully complete a Senior Thesis. The guidelines for completing the thesis are as follows:

- Student must select a faculty member from the Department who will agree to act as Thesis Advisor.
- Student will submit a thesis proposal to the Thesis Advisor for approval before October 15 of the senior year.
- Students wishing course credit for thesis work should register for Research Practicum (SOCI 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614) for one or more quarters during the senior year. The Thesis Advisor will act as the designated instructor for the Research Practicum (although the course instructor will be listed as the Department Chair in the registration system, so everything funnels through her/him).
- The completed thesis, once approved by the Thesis Advisor, must be submitted to a committee of three faculty by April 1 of the senior year. The committee will consist of the Thesis Advisor and two other faculty, one of whom may be from another department within the University of Denver.
- During the month of April, the Thesis Advisor will schedule a one-hour meeting between the student and the faculty committee to discuss the thesis and its implications for the discipline.
 - NOTE: If you are in the University Honors Program, you should check with them for specifics on their calendar and requirements for completion of the thesis; their deadlines are different than ours.
 - Departmental Theses (for students who are NOT in the HONORS program) MUST be defended by the end of the 5th week of any quarter to ensure timely major approval and inclusion in the commencement program.
- Students who satisfactorily complete a thesis, as determined by the faculty committee, will receive departmental distinction, which will be noted in the Commencement program and on your transcript. You will also be recognized at our Department Recognition Ceremony in early June.
- Honor cords are not given out for Distinction in the Major; they are only given to students invited to join Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Sociology Honor Society.

Students wishing further information should contact the Departmental Chairperson (Dr. Hava Gordon; Sturm Hall 427; phone: 303.871.3603; email: Hava.Gordon@du.edu).

* One does not have to be in the University Honors program to achieve departmental distinction; however, one cannot achieve University Honors *without* departmental distinction.

Degrees with Honors

Latin Honors

Honor designations for baccalaureate degrees are cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude.

- Cum laude is awarded to a degree candidate who has completed at least 90 quarter hours at the University with a minimum GPA of 3.75 in all course work taken at DU. For candidates with fewer than 90 quarter hours, cum laude is awarded if the student received a recommendation from the major department and if he or she achieved a minimum GPA of 3.75 at the University.
- Magna cum laude is awarded to a degree candidate who has completed at least 90 quarter hours at the University with a minimum GPA of 3.85 in all course work taken at DU. A candidate for this honor must present a thesis or project, or receive distinction in his or her major. For candidates with fewer than 90 quarter hours, magna cum laude is awarded if the student received a recommendation from the major department and if he or she achieved a minimum GPA of 3.85 at the University.
- Summa cum laude is awarded to a degree candidate who has earned a minimum of 90 quarter hours at the University with a minimum GPA of 3.95. A candidate for this honor must present a thesis or project, or receive distinction in his or her major. For candidates with fewer than 90 quarter hours, summa cum laude is awarded if the student received a recommendation from the major department and if he or she achieved a minimum GPA of 3.95 at the University.

University Honors

[University Honors Program](#) students who successfully complete honors course requirements *along with distinction in their major* are recognized upon graduation with both university honors and distinction in the major. (Double majors only need distinction in one of the majors.)

Distinction in the Major

Most departments offer recognition in the form of distinction in the major. These programs typically include special course requirements and completion of a senior thesis or project. Timing and requirements for entry and completion vary by department, so students should contact a major advisor for details. Graduation with university honors requires completion of distinction in the major, but students not in the University Honors Program can earn distinction in most departments as well.