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 a minimum GPA of 3.5 within the Sociology or Criminology major.

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 our Thesis Research (SOCI 3985—fall quarter) and Writing (SOCI 3986—winter quarter) seminars. Contact Jennifer Reich (reich@du.edu) for more information on these courses.
- 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 may be different than ours.)
- Students successfully completing the thesis as determined by the faculty committee will be recognized in the Commencement Program and at the department's spring recognition ceremony. (NOTE: “Distinction” in a department does NOT show up on your diploma or on your official DU transcript.)

Students wishing further information should contact their department advisor, Dr. Hava Gordon (Academic Advisor), or Dr. Scott Phillips (Department Chair).

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