

Schedule for Senior Thesis Completion (2025/2026)

This is a rough schedule that will be changed based on the University's Academic Calendar as needed, and with individual customization between each student and their advisor.

Junior Year

SPRING SEMESTER

<i>DEADLINE</i>	<i>BENCHMARKS</i>
Brainstorm / Contact Faculty member (First few months)	Start thinking about potential ideas for a thesis topic, identifying courses that might be useful for your given topic, and most importantly begin identifying a faculty member in the History Department who will agree to supervise your thesis.
Application Due (April 30, 2025)	Applications for all Juniors interested in writing a thesis during their senior year are due. You must submit and be accepted into the program in order to write a thesis. Late summer applications will also be considered.
Introductory meeting (Late April)	Meet with your advisor to discuss choosing research questions, structuring a thesis, beginning research, different forms of reading, and creating a summer plan.
Develop a summer break agenda	You should speak with your advisor and come up with a game plan for the summer. This can involve settling on a precise research question, beginning research, and even some writing, but almost always involves an extensive amount of reading.

Senior Year

FALL SEMESTER

<i>DEADLINE</i>	<i>BENCHMARKS</i>
Meet with your advisor (1st week of classes)	Enroll in year-long course History 99d by filling out a form available on the Registrar's website, which both the student and the advisor must sign. Meet with your advisor to discuss your progress over the summer and develop a plan for regularly meeting and establishing deadlines for the semester.
Meeting 1: Orientation & Thesis Agreement / Research Plans (mid-September)	Those doing a senior thesis will meet as a group with the UAH and discuss ideas and the plan for the year. Please bring your signed thesis agreements and research plans.
First chapter draft (October 18)	You should submit to your advisor a draft chapter or other substantial chunk of writing. Typically, this is the chapter in which you introduce your research question, synthesize the existing literature in a literature review, and then present your primary arguments and discuss the organization of the rest of your thesis.
Second chapter draft (before Thanksgiving)	You should submit to your advisor a draft second chapter or other substantial chunk of writing.
Develop a winter break agenda (week after Thanksgiving)	You should speak with your advisor and come up with a game plan for the winter break. What can you get done? What is your game plan for the spring semester?

SPRING SEMESTER

Chapter Write-Up (January-March)	You should be writing steadily at this point. Submit draft chapters to your advisor as you complete them.
Progress Report (February 7)	UAH will check in with your advisor to find out how you are doing. At this time, you should also discuss with your advisor who might serve on your defense committee. Once you have a list of names, contact those professors.
First Thesis Draft (March 23)	You should turn in a 1st draft of the entire thesis to your advisor. This is a great opportunity for feedback.
Drop Deadline (March 28) (set by university – tentative until spring calendar is released)	Last day to drop the thesis.
Feedback on Draft (March 31)	Your advisor should return your draft with comments and suggestions for improvement. At this time, you should have members for your defense committee lined up.
Final Thesis Draft (April 15)	Turn in your revised final draft!! You'll deliver a copy of your thesis to each member of your committee (electronically unless otherwise requested). The deadline for prize submission will be announced closer to the time.
Thesis Defense (April 22-April 29)	You will arrange a one hour block of time for your defense that works for your committee members. Once you have established a time, ask the department administrator (Melissa McKenna) to schedule a classroom for the defense.