

Senior Thesis/Project at AUCA

This is a general description of AUCA approach to senior thesis/project. The document highlights some general expectations and requirements, while individual academic programs provide more detailed information.

Senior Thesis/Project

A Senior Thesis/Project at AUCA is an original intellectual and creative output that rounds out and caps each student's program of study. It is a student-driven project that demonstrates and celebrates the knowledge and skills acquired during their four years of liberal arts education at AUCA. The project may take different forms, from traditional scholarly research/thesis (here referred to as thesis), to other formats, such as a film, video series, data portfolio, computer program, website etc (here referred to as a project). All forms of senior project require a written component and an oral presentation (defense).

Proposing a Senior Thesis/Project

A Senior Thesis/Project is an opportunity for students to complete an extended, significant intellectual work on a topic of their choice. While students normally choose the themes that broadly lie within the academic discipline of their relevant program, AUCA encourages students to explore cross-disciplinary topics and themes that lead to integration of knowledge obtained from various fields and disciplines.

Students are encouraged to plan their senior thesis/project as early as possible. In the second semester of their junior year students are required to formally submit a topic proposal for their senior thesis/project (see Tentative Senior Thesis/Project Proposal Form).

The deadline for tentative senior project proposal is the **last Monday of April of junior year**. Students are not required to complete and demonstrate an extensive research before selecting a topic. However, they are expected to have a clear idea about key research questions of the proposed topic. The topics can be changed/revised at a later stage based on consultation with faculty advisors.

Academic programs are encouraged to organize series of meetings with junior students during the academic year to facilitate the process of developing thesis/project proposals.

Senior Thesis Supervisor

The Senior Project is an individual student-driven endeavor. At the same time, AUCA faculty members are expected to provide the best possible guidance and support to students. Normally, students choose their thesis/project supervisors based on the expertise or scholarly interest of faculty members. However, when needed, the academic programs may be required to assign faculty members as supervisors to ensure a balanced faculty workload.

Project supervisors are expected to guide students in selecting and formulating the senior project, regularly discuss the project progress, and comment on drafts of the work.

Ideally, project supervisors should be from the student's academic program. However, students may also have supervisors from other academic programs as well as from outside AUCA, given the consent of the proposed supervisor and the approval of the relevant academic program.

An external supervisor will be expected to be in close contact with the student's department. In this case, the chair of the program assumes responsibility for ensuring that the external supervisor is aware of academic regulations and expectations related to the Senior Project.

Submission

All students are required to submit final versions of their theses/projects on the first Monday of April of their senior year. Each submission must include three bound copies of the senior project. Additionally, students should send an electronic copy in PDF format to AUCA Library at library@auca.kg.

The final product should conform to the following format requirements:

- Use standard A4 paper
- Use 12p font and double space the text
- Number pages with Arabic numerals. The title page, acknowledgements and table of contents should not be numbered.
- Page numbers should appear in the upper right hand corner of the pages.

Title page should conform to the template attached below.

Assessment of the Senior Project

The formal assessment of the Senior Project is done by a Senior Project Assessment Committee (also referred to as State Attestation Commission). Committee members evaluate both the senior thesis/project as it was submitted and the oral presentation of the thesis/project. The final grade for each senior project is submitted immediately after the defense/oral presentation.

Departmental Regulations

Other important parameters of the senior thesis/project, including specific requirements on structure, volume and so on are determined by each academic program. Students should refer to the department for more details.

Attachment 1

SENIOR THESIS/PROJECT TOPIC PROPOSAL

This form is completed by all third-year students by last Monday of April. The preliminary topics will have to be confirmed or modified in the beginning of the fourth year.

Student's name _____

Department _____

Preliminary Topic: _____

Short description of the proposed project, including assessment of importance and feasibility of the research project and description of the expected output (200 words)

Preliminary Faculty Supervisor (optional): _____

Student's signature _____

Date _____

American University of Central Asia

Department

Title

By

Student name

Supervisor: Supervisor's name

*A thesis submitted to the [Department title] of American University of Central Asia
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts*

Month, Year

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic