

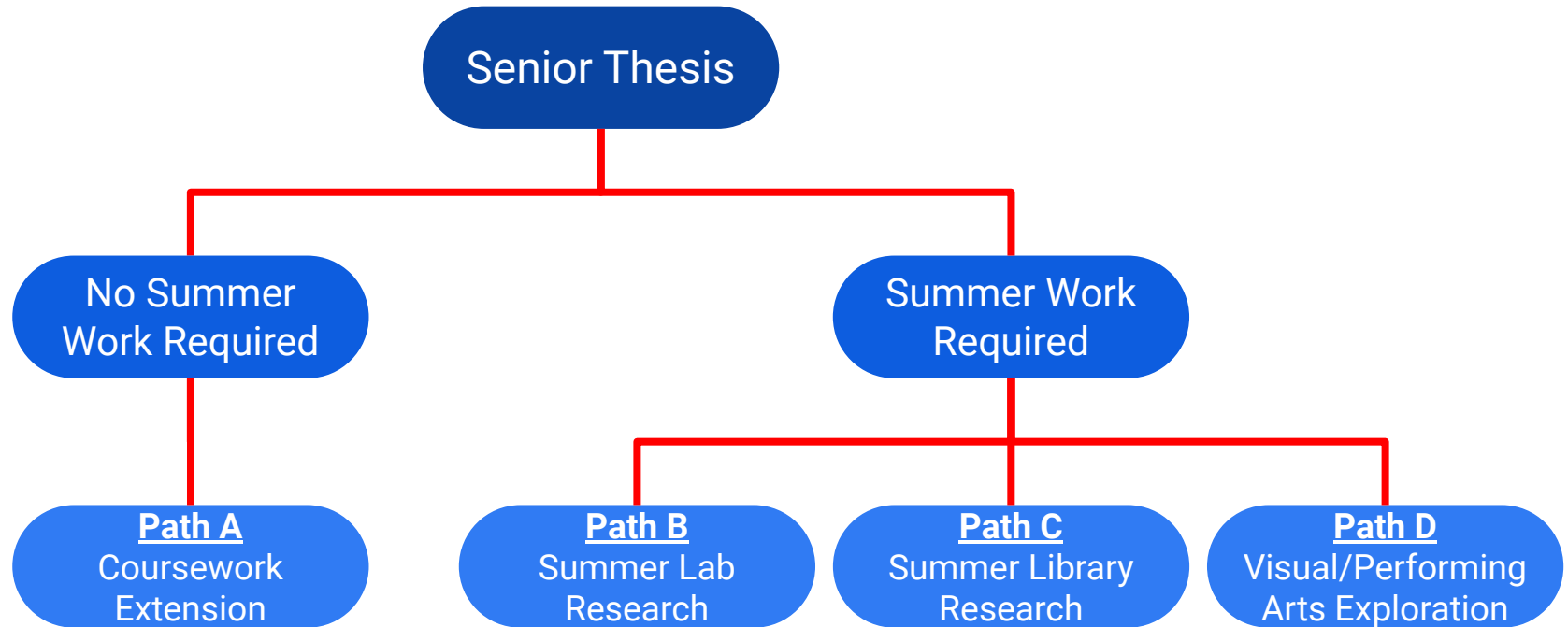
Senior Thesis 2021–2022

A First Look

What Is It? A Senior Thesis should...

- Be a chance for each student to investigate and share with the BUA community a topic of interest to him/herself.
- Delve into a topic in greater depth than in a high school class paper, preparing students to write longer papers such as college term papers.
- Each senior will
 - Explore the topic through lab work, coursework, and/or independent research;
 - Complete a written document of at least 4000 words;
 - Give an oral presentation of the work to the BUA community.

Pathways! Options! Choices!



Path A: Coursework Extension

- Path A student should choose a course at BU for the fall of senior year which contains a substantial paper on an area of interest.
- During the fall, this student must consult with course professor about the paper in question, explain that s/he would like to expand it for the BUA Senior Thesis, and ask about additional sources or questions that s/he could explore in the expanded paper.
- In January mini-term, this student will work to expand or build on the paper.
- In February and March, s/he will continue to revise the draft into a final paper with BUA Senior Thesis advisor.

Path B: Summer Lab Research and Report

- Path B student should take the STEM seminar junior year.
- S/he should identify a lab for summer work.
- S/he will work with a field expert [grad student, professor, principal investigator, etc] over the summer.
- At the end of the summer, this student will write a substantial lab report.
- A complete rough draft must be completed before or during January mini-term.
- In February and March, this student will continue to revise the draft into a final paper with BUA Senior Thesis advisor.

Path C: Summer Library Research

- Path C student should take the HAL seminar junior year.
 - S/he will identify a history or literature topic of interest.
 - S/he will prepare a book list to read over the summer.
 - This student will have taken or plan to take a class that provides background knowledge for the project.
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- At the end of the summer, s/he will have read deeply and completed an outline.
 - A rough draft must be completed before or during January mini-term.
 - In February and March, s/he will continue to revise the draft into a final paper with BUA Senior Thesis advisor.

Path D: Visual/Performing Arts Exploration

- For students with long-standing interest in an artistic field, as demonstrated through BUA coursework, outside programs, and/or at BU.
- Path D student will produce a substantial creative work AND a written component exploring the history and theory of the genre and a thoughtful reflection on the creative process.
- By the end of summer, student will complete a reasonable portion of the work.
- Work on the project will continue throughout the fall semester.
- A complete rough draft must be completed before or during January mini-term.
- In February and March, student will complete artistic project and revise draft into a final paper with BUA Senior Thesis advisor.

Deep Breath...

1. What questions do you have?
2. In breakout rooms - which path do you imagine that you will pursue? Talk about how and why you are leaning toward any particular path.

Senior Thesis Proposal

- Choose your desired pathway.
- Indicate the BU course/lab and instructor, as expert consultant.
- Write a paragraph outlining your topic (due **Wed., March 24th**).
- Submit proposal for review by the Senior Thesis Proposal Committee.

A Good Proposal Will Include...

- Path A: discussion about your coordinating BU course and your anticipated basis for your thesis.
- Path B: the lab and type of research you will be doing and what work you anticipate being completed by summer's end.
- Path C: discussion about an accompanying BU course and an annotated bibliography including at least three works you plan to read over the summer.
- Path D: your previous artistic experience (both within and outside of BUA) and an outline of your expected summer work.

The Importance of a Path A Option

For students planning for Path B, C, or D...

- In the event that your summer lab, research, or work plans do not work out, you must have a backup plan to revert to Path A.
- While planning your Fall 2021 courses, consider which course you would use as a Senior Thesis Path A coordinating course if necessary.
- Changes to schedules can be made if necessary, but it will be harder to get you a seat in a class after the usual registration time. Think ahead!

January Mini-Term (2022)

- January mini-term will be offered to all seniors from January 5th through 19th.
- Time and space will be provided at BUA to complete rough drafts, due **Thurs., January 20th** (the first day of BU classes).
- Students who have turned in an acceptable draft (approved by their BUA Senior Thesis advisor) by Wed., January 5th will be excused from the mini-term.

FAQs

- How long is the thesis?
4000+ words (Paths A, B, C); creative work and 2000+ words (Path D)
- Who can help me with the proposal?
Mrs. Brown, Mr. Ford, Dr. White
- What if my proposal is not accepted?
The Committee will provide feedback on how to improve your proposal.
- or if I want to change my topic later?
You would need to reapply and may need to consider course changes.

FAQs

- Am I required to find a “BU advisor”?
Often this will be your course instructor.
- Can I choose *any* BU class for Path A?
Nearly, but fields like science, math, and CS may require additional background, experience, or coursework.
- Can I choose BUA’s EN90 (Senior English Seminar) for Path A?
Yes, but the number of students who may use EN90 for Path A will be limited.

FAQs

- When do I find out who my BUA Senior Thesis advisor is?
May/June-ish.
- Is the January mini-term required?
Yes, unless you have an acceptable draft approved by your BUA Senior Thesis advisor. Though all are welcome!
- What if I plan to do Path B but my lab doesn't work out? or Path C but I don't have time to read and write over the summer? or Path D but I haven't done any work by September?
Then you will follow Path A (even if it requires changes in your course selections).