FRESHMAN YEAR

GETTING STARTED EARLY

Use your general requirements (sectors and foundations) to get an idea of what areas of study interest you most. In your second semester, freshman year focus on those areas a bit more. Set aside time to talk to your favorite professors about their research. Use the following summer to talk to your peers, upperclassmen, and department administrators about opportunities and funding for the future.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

You are still deep in the trenches of completing your general requirements— that’s okay! By now you should be shifting your focus to courses that not only fulfill your gen. reqs but are also getting you closer to picking a major. Second semester sophomore year should be all about decisions—“What will my major be?” “Will I study abroad?” “Who will my faculty mentor be?” Contact your favorite instructor or chosen department to ask for help in finding a faculty mentor. Take the following summer to study suggested materials from your mentor and solidify your research question for next year.

JUNIOR YEAR

GET GOING ALREADY!

So you took a long look at your interests last summer and finally settled on a mentor, research question, and major. Finish up those gen. reqs, declare your (anthropology) major and focus on registering for research based courses. You should set up a few meetings this year with your faculty mentor to seek guidance in applying for grants, fellowships, scholarships, field schools, or study abroad. Sign up for the CURF email list to receive all of the latest funding opportunities. Plan to complete the majority of your non-local research and data collection during the following summer. Set up a meeting with the Undergraduate Coordinator to go over your graduation plan and check that you are on track to take ANTH300-Research Seminar and ANTH301-Senior Thesis (required for thesis writers) next year.

SENIOR YEAR

THE HOME STRETCH

You are so close to the finish line! Now that you have completed most of your research and data collection you can really get to work on your analysis. Utilize your time in ANTH300-Research Seminar to speak with Anthropology faculty about their knowledge in research analysis and scholarly writing. Now that you are either registered for ANTH301-Senior Thesis or are planning to take it in the Spring you should have a concrete curriculum agreed upon by your mentor and yourself. ANTH301 ensures that will have a structured set of check-ins, meetings, deadlines, drafts, and advising to guarantee your thesis completion. Outside of this course there are a variety of resources at Penn to assist you in the completion of your research. Utilize the University Library, Writing Centers, CURF (if you plan to continue your research beyond this year), as well as the archive of past Anthropology dept. theses. Be aware of the thesis deadline (sent via email) and contact the Undergraduate Coordinator if you or your mentor have any concerns. Lastly, turn in your thesis and celebrate!

If you have any questions about the above information or aren’t sure if you fit into this plan (don’t worry, you do), email the Undergraduate Coordinator to set up a meeting and discuss your options!