

Graduation with Distinction

(for a Project not associated with a major)

In order to recognize scholarly achievement by students pursuing interdisciplinary studies outside their declared major(s), i.e., in conjunction with certificate programs, minors, or other elective curricula, Trinity College offers a senior thesis program leading to Graduation with Distinction. These awards are not intended to supplant Graduation with Distinction in the Major, and therefore will not be considered for double honors, i.e., honors awarded in two units for a single thesis. Nor will students be considered eligible candidates for Graduation with Distinction if they are eligible candidates for Distinction in the Major based on the same thesis.

Procedure for selection of students

An overall GPA of 3.3, and a 3.5 in the core courses, is required for eligibility to participate in the interdisciplinary thesis program leading to Graduation with Distinction. The grade point average must be maintained from the time of acceptance into the distinction program through graduation. The list of core courses will consist of 5 courses relevant to the thesis topic, at least 3 of which must have been completed before admission to candidacy for Graduation with Distinction. The core list may include no more than one independent study course and may not include the thesis course work itself. Students who meet the eligibility requirements should complete an **application form** (see below) and submit it to Dean Rachael Murphey-Brown by September 15 of the senior year. To insure the quality and appropriateness of the thesis project, the form requires the signatures of the three thesis committee members, the DUS of the student's major(s) and the Dean.

Expected product

A significant project with the student's advisor or member of the Distinction Committee is required with a written report or paper in the style of a publishable article. The committee may also require and include, at their discretion, an oral evaluation and/or assessment of an additional academic product (e.g., performance, presentation, or material product).

Evaluative body

The thesis project will be evaluated by a committee of three faculty members, including the student's thesis advisor, who must be a regular-rank faculty member.¹ At least two of the members of the committee must hold appointments in an Arts & Sciences department or program.

Evaluative procedure

The committee will evaluate the student's project to determine whether it merits Distinction.

Levels of Distinction

One level: Distinction. The award will be designated 'Graduation with Distinction' on the student's transcript.

¹ See <http://trinity.duke.edu/faculty-affairs/policies?p=faculty-appointments-titles> for a list of regular and non-regular rank faculty appointments.

**Thesis Project Application:
Graduation with Distinction**
(Project not associated with a major)

Note: Admission to candidacy in this Graduation with Distinction program not associated with a major will be based upon evidence that the proposed project is substantial, feasible, scholarly in its scope, and supported by a strong foundation of course work taken that establishes the student's qualifications to undertake the thesis/project.

Name of Student: _____ **Graduation Date:** _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ **GPA in 5 Core Courses Taken at Duke:** _____
(all Duke courses - 3.3 minimum required) (3.5 minimum required)

Core courses: (related to thesis topic, including no more than one independent study course and not including the thesis course work itself; 3 must have been completed before advancement to candidacy for Graduation with Distinction) *(include subject, number, and course title.)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Two Courses to Be Taken, one in fall and one in spring, in which the thesis project will be conducted:

1. _____
2. _____

Title of Distinction Project: _____

Duke Faculty Comprising the Distinction Committee: (Must include at least 2 members with appointments in Arts & Sciences departments, including the advisor, who must be a regular-rank faculty member)

Thesis Advisor _____ Department _____ *(please print)*

Second Member _____ Department _____ *(please print)*

Third Member _____ Department _____ *(please print)*

Signatures of Committee Members: (signature indicates willingness to serve and endorsement of core courses and thesis project)

Thesis Advisor _____ Date _____

Second Member _____ Date _____

Third Member _____ Date _____

Signature of the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the student's major: (indicates that student is not eligible to be a candidate for Graduation with Distinction in the major on the basis of the proposed thesis project)

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
(please print)

Signature of the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the student's 2nd major (if applicable): (indicates that student is not eligible to be a candidate for Graduation with Distinction in the major on the basis of the proposed thesis project)

Name: _____
(please print)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit Project Proposal to:

Dean Rachael Murphey-Brown
110 Academic Advising Center
919-684-0515

Signature of the Dean: (indicates admission to candidacy in the Graduation with Distinction program)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Deadline: September 15 (of the senior year)

SUPPLEMENTAL ATTACHMENT:

Please attach to this application an essay (3 pages max.) addressing the following points:

1. Justify how each of the 5 core courses contributes to a solid foundation of knowledge in the area of your proposed thesis/project and establishes your qualifications to undertake it.
2. Describe your thesis project. What is it about? What are the intellectual questions that you are posing and seeking to address/answer through the project? What is the scope of the project? If there is a performance or visual component to your project, what is the relationship of this to the written component?
3. State approximately how long (no. of pages) the thesis project is expected to be.