Graduation with Distinction: Classical Studies (CLST)

Procedure for selection of students

To be eligible for departmental distinction, the student must have at the time of application a 3.5 departmental GPA, 3.3 overall, and must maintain those GPAs to the project’s completion. In early spring of the junior year, students select a faculty member to be the thesis advisor and discuss their plans with the advisor. Students then submit an application form, available from the department, signed by the advisor and indicating her/his willingness to advise the thesis. The form should be submitted to the CLST Director of Undergraduate Studies, preferably by the first day of registration (for following fall semester), but certainly before the start of fall semester.

Expected product

The honors project is expected to involve original research of high quality, resulting in a paper 40-50 pages in length. Papers have dealt with historical, philological, literary, and archaeological subjects. Recent topics have included credit crises in ancient Rome, Greek and Roman religious tolerance, rhetorical strategies in the Greek medical author Soranus, how ancient philosophy wrestled with the concept of slavery, tourism in the Roman Empire, vengeance in the Athenian legal system, Vergilian allusion in the fourth-century Christian poet Juvenecus.

Evaluative body

A committee of three faculty members, including the director of the thesis.

Evaluation procedure

Each honors thesis is read by the committee to decide whether to grant distinction and at what level.

Levels of distinction

Three levels: Distinction, High Distinction, and Highest Distinction.

Special courses, other activities required, comments

To ensure sufficient time for the completion of the project, students enroll in special independent study courses, CLST 491 in the student’s senior fall semester and CLST 493 in the senior spring semester. Interested majors are encouraged to consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies as early as possible for further information.

See also:

Classical Studies: Graduation with Distinction