Graduation with Distinction: Mathematics (MATH)

Procedure for selection of students
Mathematics majors with strong academic records, including an overall GPA of at least 3.3 and a mathematics GPA of at least 3.5, and the desire to pursue original research in mathematics and its applications are encouraged to apply for graduation with distinction in mathematics.

Applications for graduation with distinction for May graduates should be made at or before registration time in the fall semester of the senior year. For December graduates, this application is due by the previous spring registration period. Early applications are encouraged.

Expected product
A paper demonstrating significant independent work in mathematics. This paper is normally written under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics. Students ordinarily pursue their work in Research Independent Study in Mathematics (Math 393, 394, 493 and/or 494). See http://math.duke.edu/undergraduate/research/independent-studies for details on applying.

Evaluative body
The Director of Undergraduate Studies will name a committee, normally containing the student's supervisor, to evaluate the paper and oral presentation. In consultation with the DUS, the committee will determine whether Distinction should be awarded and, if so, the level of distinction.

Evaluation procedure
A draft of the paper is due by April 1 of the senior year (November 15 for December graduates). An oral presentation, open to the public, and the final version of the paper are due before the last day of classes of the student's senior year.

Levels of distinction
Three levels: Distinction, High Distinction, and Highest Distinction. For Distinction, the paper should demonstrate significant independent research and be a substantial intellectual accomplishment. For High Distinction, the paper must include noteworthy original results derived by the student. In particular, the results should involve significant new ideas discovered by the student beyond standard or established approaches in the field. Highest Distinction is
reserved for truly outstanding research. In particular, such a thesis should be deemed publishable in a reputable journal.

See Also:

- http://math.duke.edu/undergraduate

Senior theses in the past few years have been archived by Duke University. See http://math.duke.edu/undergraduate/graduation-with-distinction/examples for titles.