Graduation with Distinction: Sociology (SOCIOL)

Procedure for selection of students
Juniors with a minimum GPA of at least 3.3 in Sociology, an excellent performance in sociological methods, and the strong endorsement of at least one faculty member will be considered for participation in the program. All students meeting these criteria will be invited to interview for a spot in the program in the spring of their junior year. Students who do not meet these criteria but who have a strong desire to write a thesis may also request an interview.

Expected product
The objective of the program is for students to conduct original research that results in something not unlike a graduate level Masters paper. A model thesis would have the structure of an article published in a professional journal.

Evaluative body
The director of undergraduate studies, the honors seminar instructor, a faculty advisor and a graduate student mentor constitute the final evaluation team.

Evaluation procedure
Students who, by the end of fall in their senior year, have made good progress defining a research problem, reviewing the appropriate literature and designing research to best answer their question will be encouraged to continue on in the spring to complete a thesis in anticipation of graduation with distinction. At the end of spring semester students are evaluated on the quality of their research and the quality of their final paper.

Levels of distinction
One level: Distinction. All students completing a quality thesis will graduate with distinction.

Special courses, other activities required, comments
Participants in the program must enroll in the year-long honors seminar. Students are also required to participate in a one-day honors workshop where students present their final projects in thematic panels.

See Also:
* Department of Sociology
* Graduation with Distinction