Graduation with Distinction: Statistical Science (STA)

Procedure for selection of students
To be eligible for graduation with distinction a student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.3 and a statistical science GPA of at least 3.5 maintained until graduation. Prospective candidates for admission to the graduation with distinction program are expected to submit an application to the Director of Undergraduate Studies at least two semesters prior to graduation. The application must include a research proposal including a title and a brief plan of implementation. The research proposal should be made in consultation with the student's advisor and a faculty member having expertise in the area in which the student wishes to do independent work. The application should be signed by the student, the major advisor, and the research supervising faculty member. The application will be considered in the context of the student's interest, academic record, and professional goals. The Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Chair of the Department will determine whether the applicant will be admitted to candidacy for distinction.

Expected product
To graduate with distinction a student must write a research paper (thesis) written under the supervision of a regular-rank faculty member of the Department of Statistical Science and demonstrating significant independent work in statistical science. The paper must be completed six weeks prior to graduation. The student must present the paper orally during the month before graduation. This presentation is open to the public.

Evaluative body
Early in the semester of the student's graduation, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will name a three-person committee, normally including the candidate's research supervisor and the major adviser, to evaluate the paper and oral presentation.

Evaluation procedure
The committee will evaluate the candidate's thesis and oral presentation for quality of intellectual content, quality of writing/speaking, and originality.

Levels of distinction
The committee will determine whether distinction will be awarded, and if so, the level of distinction:

* Graduation with Distinction in Statistical Science,
* Graduation with High Distinction in Statistical Science, or
* Graduation with Highest Distinction in Statistical Science
For high distinction, the paper should represent a major intellectual accomplishment and contain original results derived by the student. For highest distinction, the candidate must produce a paper publishable in a statistical science journal.

**Special courses, other activities required, comments**

Usually the honors thesis will be written as part of the required two-semester STA190 seminar sequence.

* Department of Statistical Science