Graduation with Distinction: Women's Studies (WOMENST)

Procedure for selection of students
Students pursuing distinction must have a GPA of at least 3.5 in Women's Studies course work at the beginning and end of the senior year. In the junior year, students discuss their plans informally with the director, associate director, or program coordinator. Students then select a primary thesis advisor and submit an application, together with a letter from the primary advisor indicating her/his willingness to advise the thesis. The proposal and the consent letter should be submitted to the Women's Studies administrative coordinator before the start of the fall semester.

Expected product
Students completing distinction in Women's Studies should produce a thesis based on independent archival, field, or library research. The work must incorporate an analysis of women and gender that transcends the approaches of any single discipline and that draws on feminist theory. In April, students are required to present their work in a public forum to the Women's Studies community and to the general University community. These presentations are not intended to be a defense; rather, they serve as a forum for students' work to be recognized, and for students to receive additional commentary and suggestions for the refinement of their work.

Evaluative body
A three-member faculty committee consisting of the advisor, a second reader, and the director of Women's Studies.

Evaluation procedure
The final thesis will be evaluated by the committee, which will then decide whether or not to recommend it for honors to the Women's Studies Steering Committee. The Women's Studies Steering Committee will determine whether to grant distinction. A minimum grade of A- is required for the paper to qualify for distinction.

Levels of distinction
Three levels: Distinction, High Distinction, and Highest Distinction.

Special courses, other activities required, comments
Students should plan to enroll in two consecutive independent studies with their advisor, WOMENST 192 and WOMENST 193, during their senior year. When possible, students should select additional courses that will contribute to and complement their thesis study. Students are also encouraged to participate in a peer writing group that meets regularly to provide support and feedback while the thesis is in progress.

See Also:
- [Women's Studies Program](#)
- [Graduation with Distinction](#)