

## Graduation with Distinction: Interdepartmental Major (IDM)

In recognition of the special nature of the Interdepartmental Major, which is grounded in two disciplinary areas but has an interdisciplinary, thematic focus, students who satisfy the eligibility requirements may pursue one of two tracks leading to graduation with distinction. They may follow:

- a disciplinary track and pursue graduation with distinction through either the primary or the secondary department. Students who elect this track must fulfill all requirements of graduation with distinction in the chosen discipline and will graduate with distinction in that discipline. Or,
- an interdisciplinary (IDM) track, for students whose proposed honors project substantially combines both disciplines and their methodologies. Students who elect this track must fulfill the requirements outlined below and will graduate with "Distinction in the Interdepartmental Major."

### **Procedure for selection of students (IDM track)**

An overall GPA of 3.3, and a 3.5 in the core courses of the major, are required for eligibility to apply to the distinction program in the IDM track. The grade point average must be maintained from the time of acceptance into the distinction program through graduation. Students who meet the eligibility requirements should submit an application form (**see below**) to the Academic Dean for IDM no later than the end of the drop/add period in the student's penultimate semester at Duke, usually the fall of the senior year.

### **Expected product (IDM track)**

A significant interdisciplinary project directed by a faculty member drawn from the primary or secondary department and resulting in a written report or paper in the style of a publishable article is expected. Students are encouraged to give a public presentation of their project along with other distinction students in the appropriate (primary or secondary) department.

### **Evaluative body (IDM track)**

An honors committee of three faculty members drawn from both the primary and the secondary department and including the project director, serving as Chair, and one (or both) of the student's IDM advisors.

### **Evaluative procedure (IDM track)**

The honors committee, chaired by the project director, will set specific requirements and deadlines to be met by the candidate and will, upon its submission, evaluate the student's thesis to determine whether it merits Distinction. The committee is expected to report to the Academic Dean's Office by the last day of classes in the semester in which the thesis is due.

### **Levels of distinction (IDM track)**

One level: Distinction.

### **Special courses, other activities required, comments (IDM track)**

The student is expected to enroll in an independent study course with his/her project director. A written project proposal must be submitted no later than the end of the drop/add period in the student's penultimate semester at Duke, usually the fall of the senior year.

**See Also:** Interdepartmental Major

# Project Proposal for Graduation with Distinction in the Interdepartmental Major (IDM Track)

**Name of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cumulative GPA:**(all Duke courses - 3.3 minimum required) \_\_\_\_\_

**GPA in core courses taken at Duke:**(3.5 minimum required) \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Distinction Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Brief Description of Distinction Project:**

*(submit a typewritten paragraph describing the project on a separate page appended to this application form)*

**Name of Faculty Member Directing the Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(This individual must also be listed below as a member of the Honors Committee.)*

## **Honors Committee Members:**

*(drawn from the primary and the secondary department and including the project director as Chair) (please print)*

Primary or Secondary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Second Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Third Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

## **Signatures of Honors Committee Members:**

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Second Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Third Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission of the Completed Application:** no later than the end of the drop/add period in the student's penultimate semester at Duke to the Academic Dean for IDM (Dean Liguó Zhang, [Liguó.zhang@duke.edu](mailto:Liguó.zhang@duke.edu)).