

Health & Society Program

DISTINCTION PROCESS

The Health & Society Program offers Majors with outstanding academic records the opportunity to apply for Distinction. If awarded, graduation with departmental distinction is designated on the diploma. A H&S Distinction project is a substantial investment of time, typically no less than 3 semesters, and involves original research. To earn this departmental distinction, a student must:

1. Complete the usual coursework for a B.A. or B.S. degree with a least a 3.500 GPA in the Major and at least a 3.000 GPA overall.
2. Identify and designate a supervising faculty member who is full-time in one of the major's Foundation or Core Departments.
 - a. This person must agree to supervise all work from conception and design to execution and final reports.
 - b. Appropriate IRB reviews and funding requests will also be supervised by this faculty member.
 - c. If work is conducted in association with a faculty member's lab or research, then approval of that faculty member must be obtained for students to conduct Distinction work on the same project. Normally, that same faculty member would also supervise the Distinction project, although there may be exceptions.
3. With a grade of B or higher, pass the capstone course (ANTH 4318, ANTH 4343, or a course approved for capstone by the H&S Director) on an inter- and multi-disciplinary approach to health and health care.
4. With a grade of A or A-, enroll in an Independent Study (e.g., ANTH 4391) to conduct an independent research project (may be associated with a faculty member's overarching research) that:
 - a. Spans a substantial period of time an effort, typically 2-3 semesters.
 - b. Reflects independent and individual effort; that is, while students may work as RA's on faculty research projects, a Distinction project must be an additional work designed and executed principally by the student.
 - c. Is no less than 20 pages of text, includes a bibliography (not included in the 20 pages), and is written in appropriate professional style and format.

Independent Study credits are in addition to all other Major requirements.

5. Make an oral presentation of approximately 30 minutes in length in a format approved by the supervising faculty member. These may include:
 - a. Committee review with at least three full-time Major faculty members, one of which must be from Anthropology), covering the results of the research project and general issues and concepts in the Major Foundation and Core coursework
 - b. Conference presentation in oral or poster format;
 - c. Seminar or open forum presentation with audience Q&A
6. Students who are double-majoring and wish to seek Distinction in both Majors must conduct two separate projects, each meeting the requirements of their respective majors. Thus, regardless of the inter-disciplinary nature of a student's work, each Distinction project requires its own data set, a separate report, and separate presentation.