

Research and Creative Works

University Guidelines, from the General Announcements:

Distinction in Research and Creative Works is a university award for select undergraduates, granted at commencement, which appears on the transcript and diploma. Students must apply within their department or program to be considered for the award and the application must be supported by a letter from a faculty member. Eligibility for the award extends widely to include a variety of research, design, and other creative projects, as well as persistent dedication to research. Projects completed in part or entirely at other institutions or with community partners will be eligible for consideration.

Applicants must be in good academic standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30 in courses completed at Rice. The award will be granted only to projects that produce a concrete outcome--e.g. an essay, invention, design, musical composition--and demonstrate commitment and/or achievement above and beyond the norm. Students who complete senior theses, senior design projects or other required senior capstone projects shall not qualify automatically for consideration for this university distinction.

Responsibility for judging applications and determining those that merit the distinction award rests with the undergraduate degree programs or departments. Departments publish annually clear expectations and criteria for the research and design projects that will be considered for the award, as well as guidelines for what constitutes research work above and beyond the norm within their respective fields. Departments may designate additional requirements as well, such as completion of a research seminar or oral defense.

Rice Anthropology Department Guidelines:

To earn **Distinction in Research and Creative Works** in anthropology, students should have done one or more of the following:

1. Written a senior honors thesis in the department that is based on original research and/or scholarship, and is judged to be exceptional;
2. Written a sole-authored scholarly paper that was (or will be) presented at a scholarly conference;
3. Otherwise made a significant individual contribution to anthropological research, including innovative research that has been published, posted, or screened in a venue that gives greater public visibility to anthropology as a discipline

By **the end of the 14th week of the Spring semester**, students applying should submit electronically to the undergraduate advisor a portfolio consisting of:

- (1) A two-page description of how their research effort meets the requirements of Distinction. This two-page document should also place the student's original contribution in broader scholarly anthropological research.
- (2) If a paper or thesis has been written to qualify, students should also submit the paper.
- (3) An application form including the endorsement of a faculty member (See attached form).

Your electronic submission should have the subject: **Distinction in Research and Creative Works in Anthropology**, should be submitted by the end of the 14th week of the Spring semester, and should be complete (all forms, copies, and documents should be submitted electronically).

FAQ

1. Do I have to be an anthropology major to apply for Distinction from anthropology?

Yes.

2. How does this work in conjunction with the honors thesis in anthropology?

Students may receive honors through their thesis work as well as apply for Distinction, but completing a thesis does not automatically mean students will receive Distinction.

3. How competitive is the Distinction process? *The Department anticipates selecting only 1-2 students for this award annually.*

**Distinction in Research and Creative Works
Anthropology Department
Student Application Form**

Name:

Student ID Number:

Rice Email:

Major(s) and Minor(s):

Expected Graduation Date:

Criteria:

I am currently in good academic standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30 in courses completed at Rice.

I have submitted my final thesis/project/presentation/portfolio/creative work on or before the end of the 14th week of the Spring Semester.

Description of Research or Creative Works: **(250 maximum word count):**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supporting Faculty:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate by signing below that you recommend this student be considered for the award of Distinction in Research and Creative Works. This honor is awarded upon graduation to select students whose achievements go “above and beyond the norm” in their area of research or creative work. The supporting faculty member is expected to have worked with the student on a regular basis and have intimate knowledge of the student’s accomplishments, capabilities, and/or contributions in research, design, or other creative work. **If this student is selected by the Department for this recognition, the supporting faculty must provide a statement (approximately 1 page) addressing the substance and significance of the research or creative work.**

Signature: _____

Date: _____