

Distinction in the Major
Department of Communication Studies

Because the Department of Communication Studies offers a major that accommodates study across the breadth of the field of communication studies, our criteria for awarding Departmental Distinction needs to be as flexible as possible, while maintaining the high standards necessary to confer such an honor. Our students and faculty are remarkably diverse in that their emphases range from humanities to social sciences, from research to creative work, and often combine these emphases in a unique and innovative fashion. In short, there is no way to successfully implement a “one size fits all” plan for Departmental Distinction. Accordingly, students wishing to achieve Departmental Distinction must work closely with their faculty advisor, beginning in Fall Quarter of their junior year, to develop a plan to earn distinction meeting the following criteria:

1. The student must have a 3.75 GPA within the major, and a 3.5 GPA overall.
2. In consultation with a faculty advisor, the student must design a culminating project, which will consist of significant research or creative work directly related to the student’s course of study in the major. While the precise nature of the project may not be finalized until the student’s senior year, this conversation should begin to develop a general direction for that project so that the student and advisor can develop a plan to select specific relevant coursework at the 3000-level.
3. In this meeting, the student and faculty advisor will outline a sequence of three 3000-level courses closely related to the student’s culminating project. In special circumstances, and with the permission of both the faculty advisor and course instructor, students may be able to substitute 4000-level courses for their distinction plan. One course in this three-course sequence may be taken outside of the major. Students must receive a grade of A- or better in each of the courses identified in their distinction plan.
4. As a result of the meeting, the student will submit the Application for Departmental Distinction (see attached) outlining their plans to meet departmental requirements for distinction.

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