

What is a Project for Distinction?

A project for distinction is a non-professional research project conducted by a student seeking to graduate with distinction in Psychology. Distinction requires the majority approval of full-time faculty members of the Psychology Program. Students must register for 0-8 credits in an independent study titled, "Research Project for Distinction". The credits may be divided across two semesters, where appropriate (e.g., atypically large or time consuming projects).

Who is Eligible?

Students must have a minimum G.P.A. of 3.2 in PSYC courses. Students must also have completed or be enrolled in PSYC 3242, Experimental Psychology.

Why?

How?

Prestige

Relatively few students graduate with program distinction

Increase Competitiveness of Graduate School Applications

Many graduate schools require a record of independent scholarship

Gain Experience Conducting Research

Integrate knowledge from multiple domains

Learn in depth about a topic of interest to you

Understand all aspects of the research process

Demonstrate Research Skills

Comprehend published research articles

Critically evaluate strengths and weaknesses of past research

Generate research hypotheses

Develop research design skills

Collect primary data / Utilize secondary data

Analyze data

Write a complete research paper using the APA style

Orally present research in public

Prepare a manuscript for journal submission

Professional Interactions

Interact closely with faculty

Interact with members of the field at conferences

When to Begin

A student may begin a project for distinction any time during or after they complete Experimental Psychology. Some experience as a research assistant to a faculty member prior to beginning a project for distinction is recommended, but not required. To be of greatest benefit to the students, the project should begin early during their junior year and be completed in time to present findings at a professional conference or even submit to a journal during their senior year. Most students begin their project in their first semester of senior year and complete it in their last semester of their senior year. An earlier start would be more beneficial to the

students who are applying to graduate school and desire experience with conference presentations and manuscript submission.

Deadline to Complete Projects for distinction papers must be complete and submitted to all Psychology Program faculty no later than one week prior to the oral defense. The oral defense is presented during the annual Psi Chi conference scheduled during the last week of April in the Spring semester. Fall oral defenses must be scheduled during the last two weeks of the Fall semester. The deadline for approval by the Psychology Program faculty for a student to graduate with program distinction is the last day of exam week in the last semester of your senior year. Late papers will not be considered for distinction, except in extreme circumstances beyond the control of the student.

RESEARCH

Students may conduct experiments, observational studies (e.g., correlations), surveys, archival

B&B

PSYC GPA is 3.2

You are enrolled in or have completed Experimental Psychology

You wish to conduct independent research

You can commit two semesters or at least 8 months to your project

h: Dp

hp

Develop Idea:

Meet with a PSYC faculty member to develop an idea, set goals, and provide direction.

This person will become your faculty mentor and committee chair.

Form Thesis Committee:

Thesis committee chair/mentor. Discuss forming a thesis committee your mentor
Two additional Psychology faculty members. Any PSYC faculty member can serve in this capacity. Faculty members with expertise in your area and/or expertise in research methodology are most appropriate. In rare cases, it may be appropriate to include faculty from outside the Psychology program. Inclusion of faculty members outside of Psychology must be discussed with your mentor and require majority approval by the Psychology Program.

Meet or email with potential committee members to inquire about their availability and interest to serve on the committee.

Write and Finalize Thesis Proposal: Your proposal may require several drafts to finalize so allow for an entire semester. Work closely and diligently with your faculty mentor. A Brief Guide to Writing the Psychology Paper may be a useful reference for you. The final thesis proposal must be in APA style and include the following:

Introduction

Review of the relevant literature

Statement of f.4:2(o).4(TJoc-.1ih 0 TD()Tj/TT2 9 .6001 refBT/T[(thesm)6an)5.9gf.3a.0004 Tc7

essential that your proposal demonstrate an understanding of the statistical analyses that are appropriate to test your hypothesis.
References must be APA style

Apply for Approval from the Inst

Explain your findings in plain English, as they relate to your hypothesis. Follow this with any interesting findings that were not expected.

Cover Page

ORDER

Research Project for Psychology Program Distinction

Presented to

The Psychology Program

Stockton University

Galloway, New Jersey

By

[Signature]

[Signature]

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Chair: **[Signature]**

Committee Chair signature

Committee Member: **[Signature]**

Committee Member signature

Committee Member: **[Signature]**

Committee Member signature

