Graduation with Distinction in English

If you have a grade-point average of at least 3.5 in upper-division English courses, you are eligible to undertake a project that could lead to distinction.

You will need to do as much as possible in advance because all Graduation with Distinction requirements must be fulfilled by the midpoint of the semester of graduation. Check the university academic calendar (http://www.gsu.edu/academic_calendar.html) for the midpoint date.

1. At least two semesters in advance of graduation, you should plan your project with your advisor. You may undertake a literary-critical paper, a creative-writing project, or design a reading list on which you will write an examination paper. Prepare a brief proposal (two or three pages) which your advisor will send to the Honors and Awards Committee.

2. Members of the Honors and Awards Committee will read the proposal and approve it, disprove it, or suggest modifications.

3. The Honors and Awards Committee will notify your advisor of its decision, including any suggestions the committee may wish to make to you.

4. If your proposal is approved, you and your advisor proceed with the project. This work usually takes up most of the first of the two semesters. You should try to be nearly finished by the end of the first semester. (Note: You may wish to sign up for ENGL 4999 while working on your project.)

5. You should be ready to sit for the oral examination early in the second semester; the
Chair of the Honors and Awards committee will appoint a committee for the oral exam.

6. During the first 10 days of the second semester, you and your advisor should submit a fair copy of your paper/project to the Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, who will distribute copies to the oral exam committee.

7. The oral exam committee will conduct the exam promptly. The Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee will report to the graduation office the names of all students to graduate with distinction.

8. Once you have passed the oral exam, you present (through your advisor) a revised/edited copy of your paper/project to the department chair.

This process is something like the process used for writing a master’s thesis and thus it serves as good practice for students who plan to attend graduate school. You will find that carrying out such a project gives you not only good practice, but also pleasure and satisfaction. We all feel proud when the phrase “With distinction in English” follows a student’s name at graduation!

Contact LeeAnne Richardson at (404) 651-2900 for more information.