

POLICY FOR GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION IN THEATER STUDIES

Students with at least a 3.5 GPA in their Theater Studies course are eligible to apply for a project. Students must complete 11 courses in total to graduate with distinction in the major instead of the standard 10. All distinction courses count toward the major.

The student's proposed project needs the approval of the project supervisor, second committee member, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). All applications must be submitted by March of the student's junior year (March 2, 2021 for students graduating in 2022).

A student may pursue a project in writing, directing, design, acting, dramatic literature, theater history, or performance studies. All projects must include a substantial written component. They may also have a production component.

Distinction Coursework

In the 2021-2022 academic year, you are required to take either a Research Independent Study (THEATRST 493-1) or a "home seminar" in the first semester and the Senior Distinction Project (THEATRST 495) in the second semester.

First Semester: Research Independent Study (THEATRST 493-1) or Home Seminar

The Research Independent Study (THEATRST 493-1) option requires students to meet once every two weeks with their instructor. At least 15 pages of research must be documented and turned in by the end of the semester. This documentation can vary depending on the nature of the research, including but not limited to written notes, visual representations, and journal entries.

Home seminars entail enrolling in a course taught by your thesis adviser closely associated with your topic. You should first get the instructor's permission and arrange to do extra reading and writing assignments for the class that will translate the course work into the terms of your distinction project. The home seminar option is only available the first semester you are working on your distinction project.

Second Semester: Senior Distinction Project (THEATRST 495)

All distinction candidates must submit a thesis paper.

- Candidates with a distinction project in theater history, performance studies, or dramatic literature are required to submit a 40-70 page thesis paper.
- Candidates with a distinction project in acting or directing are required to submit a 25 page paper supplementary to their acting or directing project.
- Candidates writing original scripts, adaptations, and/or translations are required to turn in a 15 page paper supplementary to their playwriting project.

Evaluation Procedure

Upon approval by the instructor, the completed thesis is submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by March 30, 2022 for evaluation by a committee comprised by the DUS, the thesis advisor, and one other faculty member. Please submit 3 bound copies to the DUS, along with an electronic copy via email to coco.wilder@duke.edu.

DISTINCTION PROJECT APPLICATION

Name: _____ Project Supervisor: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____ GPA: _____

Please supply an application portfolio for your Distinction Project. It needs to include:

1. An accurate and current Theater Studies advising sheet.
2. A basic bibliography (one page single-spaced, except in case of original play).
3. A two to three paragraph description of your project including: your motivation for pursuing this project; budgetary considerations for research or production; a timeline for completion; and potential collaborators for performance component.
4. A letter of recommendation from your project supervisor, who must be a Theater Studies faculty member.
5. One writing sample of approximately 10 pages from a Theater Studies course OR a production sample (e.g., script, reel).
6. If your project has a performance component, a note from Thomas Quintas, Director of Theater, stating that you have made necessary booking and budgetary arrangements for rehearsals and performances.

7. DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

February 15, 2021: Juniors planning to graduate in 2022 must meet with the Theater Studies DUS Darren Gobert by this date to declare intent and discuss possible projects. Contact Professor Gobert by email: rdg37@duke.edu.

March 2, 2021: The project proposal with signatures from project supervisor and second committee member must be submitted to the DUS by this date. The project supervisor must be a member of the Theater Studies faculty. Decisions on applications are made before the end of registration for the next semester.

Student signature _____

Project Supervisor _____

Second Committee member _____

Director of Undergraduate Studies approval _____

Please email this form to Coco Wilder coco.wilder@duke.edu