Graduation with Distinction in Research and Creative Works  
Department of Statistics

Distinction in Research and Creative Works is a university award for select undergraduates, granted at commencement, which appears on the transcript and diploma. 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 research or creative works that demonstrate commitment and/or achievement “above and beyond the norm.” (See below.) 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.

Department of Statistics Expectations & Criteria

1. Evidence of distinguished work from a statistics research or creative work that goes beyond the norm may include, but is not limited to the following.
   - An author or coauthor on a published article in which the student makes a significant contribution to the statistical aspects of the work. This work may be an application of statistics.
   - Development of a new approach to analyze data and convincing evidence that a manuscript based on the work will be submitted for publication. New approaches may include data visualization, computation (e.g., modeling implementation, simulation, R package), methodology, theory or any other tools that lead to new ways of conducting a statistical analysis. The clearest evidence of such an accomplishment is a manuscript that is ready or nearly ready for journal submission.
   - Presenting and having the work recognized at a conference beyond the university level. This may be a talk, poster presentation, or competition.
   - Significant contribution to a project that in some way promotes the field of statistics. Examples include (a) organizing a workshop, seminar series, journal club, or any other similar educational project; (b) significant contribution of statistical expertise to a community based project.

2. If the work is part of a team effort, the individual must provide clear evidence of his or her unique and substantial contribution without whose efforts the project would not have been successful. Distinguished individual effort must be above and beyond what was expected of the individual’s contributions. A letter of support from team members would be appropriate, in addition to the faculty/mentor letter.

3. Individuals from the same team project (e.g., STAT 450) making equal contributions to the work may be eligible for Distinction with evidence of a significant team effort (such as a published research article, conference award, software product).

4. One semester of effort may qualify for Distinction, but it is more likely that a yearlong effort will result in distinguished work.

5. Completion of STAT 450 as an individual student project or otherwise does not automatically qualify for he award.

6. A committee of at least two statistics faculty will make decisions for the awards.
Distinction in Research and Creative Works
Statistics Department

Student Application
Deadline: April 1

Name: ___________________________ Residential College: ___________________________
Student ID Number: ___________________________ Expected Graduation Date: ___________________________
Rice Email: ___________________________ Major(s) and Minor(s): ___________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________

Application Requirements:
1. The applicant must be in good academic standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30 in courses completed at Rice.
2. A supporting faculty/mentor letter of recommendation.
3. A description of your project/presentation/portfolio/creative work. Limit your description to 7 pages, including text, tables, charts, and graphs. If you are submitting a published article, please include a copy of the publication.
4. An explanation of why you believe your work is “above and beyond the norm” of similar work in your peer group. As a baseline you can compare your work to what a typical statistics major would do for a STAT 450 senior project. Limit your explanation to 250 words.

Submit a hard copy and an electronic copy of your application (including all supporting materials) to Margaret Poon, Department to Statistics.

Student Signature:___________________________________________ Date:_______________________

Supporting Faculty/Mentor:

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Title: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Institution: ___________________________ Department: ___________________________

Please indicate by signing below that you recommend this student be considered for the award of Distinction in Research and Creative Work. This honor is awarded upon graduation to select students whose achievements go “above and beyond the norm” in their area of research, design, or other 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. The supporting faculty must also provide a statement (limit of 1 page) addressing the substance and significance of the research/design/creative work and the student’s contribution to the project. Please include the statement with this application. The statement may be submitted in a sealed envelope.

Signature:_____________________________ Date:__________________________