

Distinction in Research
and Creative Works
Guidelines for Seniors
Graduating
with a B.A. with a
Major in Architecture
2020

The Distinction in Research and Creative Works is a university graduation honor for undergraduates. Designees are determined at the level of each department but bestowed by the university at commencement. The distinction appears on the transcript and diploma. The university stipulates that the award recognizes commitment and achievement, "above and beyond the norm," of what is expected as a part of the major.

In architecture, this distinction will be granted to graduating seniors who demonstrate an extraordinary pursuit of architecture as an intellectual endeavor as evidenced in the application by a specific effort and/or coherent body of work.

Rice Architecture and university criteria for the distinction are as follows:

- Undergraduate architecture students wishing to be considered for this distinction must apply in their final year of the B.A. in Architecture or B.A. in Architectural Studies. The award is granted to individual students based on this application.
- The student must be on track to complete all major and graduation requirements at the conclusion of that academic year. Students must have a minimum of a 3.30 GPA in courses completed at Rice at the time of graduation. However, this award is not based on grades or GPA and is independent from other graduation honors or awards given by the school.
- This research effort can be in design, history/theory, technology or any combination thereof. It is an opportunity for recognition of excellence in areas that are not considered by design based awards.
- This effort may consist of a single project, a text, or a focused set of related projects/texts.
- The effort should be driven by the student's initiative and demonstrate a high degree of independence that exceeds normal expectations and the curriculum. However, the effort can draw from required courses, electives, faculty-supervised research, extra-curricular and/or community-based research.
- Group and team based work can be included in the application, but the award is for the individual student's work therein. The award cannot be given to groups, classes, etc. Therefore, contributions of the individual to that group work must be made explicit and demonstrated in the application materials.
- Publication of work or essays, competition entries, conference participation and similar work is not required but is encouraged as demonstrating the broad relevance of the work and a commitment that is "above and beyond the norm" at Rice Architecture/Rice.
- One faculty member must be designated as a reference.
- A committee consisting of at least three faculty members will evaluate applications independently of other honor or awards given by the university or the school. The committee may choose to make no award and the total number of awards should, as a general principle, be very few. The decision of the committee is final.

The application for the distinction consists of three parts:

1. Cover Page including student name, expected date of graduation, the name of the required faculty reference, and title for the research effort. Where relevant, bibliographic information for published materials should be included on this title page.
2. An introductory/summary text of no more than 1,000 words that delineates a clear and singular research and/or creative effort. This text should demonstrate that the included work coheres as body of research on a single topic of investigation and effort. The text should also indicate this work's significance within the larger field of architecture. In short, this research should position the student to lead the discipline and its practices.
3. Examples of work, visual, written, or a combination thereof. Note this is not the same as the portfolio submitted to the B. Arch/Preceptorship. This documentation should be between 5 to 10 pages.
4. Supplementary Materials, such as papers, publications, etc., can be submitted if desired.
5. Name of Faculty reference and reasons for selection (i. e. relationship to the materials/work). The reference may be an instructor of any rank and should have direct knowledge regarding a significant part of the application materials.

Applications are due on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 by 12 midnight

All materials must be submitted to box as a single PDF file of no more than 10 MB - <https://rice.box.com/s/7rog4587w9jmslxcdp0kxghnf2vk5vux>.