

College of Sciences Distinction in Research
Program Policies and Procedures

The College of Sciences provides the opportunity for outstanding students to do formalized research under faculty supervision. Students who successfully complete the process graduate with the *College of Sciences Distinction in Research* notation on their final academic transcript. Approval based on the students' academic performance, and ultimately, upon the recommendation of faculty members, the Department Chair, and the Associate Dean.

To be eligible to pursue this distinction, students must first:

- Be pursuing a major in the College of Sciences
- Have and maintain Cumulative and Major grade point averages of 3.0 or greater

If those criteria are met, the student will then:

- Enroll in two Honors Research courses in their major (CHE 4993, PHY 4993, etc.) in or near their last two semesters
- Produce a high-quality research thesis

Once the student satisfies those requirements:

- Use the "COS Distinction in Research" Approval Memo, attach a copy of the thesis, and obtain approval signatures from the Instructor of Record, one additional departmental faculty member, and the Department Chair
 - *All signatories, when signing, are indicating that the research and thesis completed by the student are high quality and worthy of special distinction*
- The signed Approval Memo and the thesis copy should be forwarded to cos.undergraduate@utsa.edu, by the end of business on the day that grades are due in the graduating semester

The Dean's Office will then confirm that all requirements have been met, provide the student regalia cords, and send the Approval Memo to the Office of the Registrar so that the notation is added to the student's transcript.

Students receiving Highest Honors in the Honors College are also eligible for receiving this notation without doing additional coursework or research. Students need only have the "COS Distinction in Research" Approval Memo, submitted on their behalf with a copy of the research thesis.

Note: A "COS Distinction in Research Requirements Petition Request" may be submitted to request an exception to GPA or course requirements:

- a waiver re: GPA should be submitted as soon as it is known that the student does not have or would not maintain the required 3.0; a justification must be provided.
- A waiver re: course requirements should be submitted **and** approved prior to the student enrolling in an alternative course. Only Independent Study or Laboratory Research: Biology Concentrations courses will be considered for substitution.