Distinction in the Major Capstone: Interim Guidelines

1. GPA eligibility: * Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0
   * Minimum Major GPA: 3.4 based on completion of at least 5 major courses (GPA correlates with initial level of Latin honors [cum laude].) Students must maintain GPA standards throughout capstone and at graduation to receive distinction.

   Note: These are University-wide GPA eligibility standards: Individual departments/major programs may set higher standards if they choose but they cannot lower these minimum standards.

2. Required evidence to award distinction in a major seminar paper or project: A positive written evaluation of reasonable length by department/major program and external evaluator which addresses standards of quality as defined by departments/major programs.

3. Definition of "external evaluation": An evaluation by a person or persons external to the institution who possess appropriate credentials regarding the quality of student work in a major capstone course according to standards defined by the discipline.

4. Administration of the program: For the initial year, the VPAA and Academic Affairs (Dean's) Advisory Council (AAAC) will provide oversight for the program. Administrative responsibilities of the AAAC include:
   4.a. Create forms for the following: departmental/major program plans for implementing a distinction recognition, student proposals/departmental endorsements for external evaluation of a capstone paper, project, or performance; reporting outcomes of external evaluation.
   4.b. Review and approve departmental/major program plans and proposals submitted; receive and acknowledge outcome reports.
   4.c. Review and approve external evaluators as proposed by departments/major programs
   4.d. Provide annual summary of program outcomes to faculty

5. Departments/major programs choosing to offer a distinction option for senior seminars will be charged with developing an implementation plan and submitting the plan to the VPAA and AAAC by an announced deadline. Possible strategies for implementing a distinction option will be provided to departments/major programs upon request.