

Upper School Academic Distinctions Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, 2018-19

Document Goal:

1. Provide a concrete matrix of requirements for determining eligibility for Academic Distinctions.

The Purposes of Academic Distinctions:

1. To comprehensively recognize the diverse strengths and interests of our Upper School students by expanding current distinctions to be offered at the Level 1 and Level 2 year.
2. To recognize the excellent work our students are already doing as part of our rigorous academic program (without introducing further levels of student work or significant additional bureaucracy).
3. To encourage students to pursue excellence their areas study, rewarding high achievement and positive contributions to academic programs, while providing opportunities for growth and a diversity of interests.

Available Distinctions: a student may petition to receive **up to 2** distinctions in 11th grade and **up to 2** distinctions in 12th grade.

1. Level 1 Distinctions: Awarded if a student has completed 2 approved advanced courses in the department with at least a A- grade in each, completed at least 2 years of approved experiences beyond the classroom, and shown outstanding character and growth as a member of those activities. Level 1 distinctions are available to 11th and 12th grade students.
2. Level 2 Distinctions: Awarded if a student has completed 3 approved advanced courses in the department with at least a A- grade in each, completed at least 3 years of experiences beyond the classroom, and shown outstanding character and growth as a member of those activities as determined by departmental faculty.

Award Process:

1. The distinction matrix below will be reviewed with every student during the scheduling process each spring semester with their Advisor, guiding them on course and club choices and potential opportunities for distinction.
2. Students who are interested in earning a distinction speak with the appropriate department chair in the 3rd Quarter of their 10th grade or 11th grade year. The department chairs and students can then discuss possible distinction mentors.
3. Students working toward a distinction get the consent of a faculty member to be their mentor.
4. Students and faculty mentors meet a minimum of once per quarter to discuss possible "beyond the classroom" experiences and to check in on progress toward a distinction.
5. In the 3rd quarter of 11th and 12th grade, the student will work with their faculty mentor to prepare and submit petitions for review by the relevant Department Chairs or program directors overseeing specific distinctions. Upon review of final yearly grades, each Chair/Director, in consultation with department faculty and the Division Head, will determine if the requirements have been met for the distinction the student has petitioned for.

Note: The Honors Thesis Program will continue in its current status (including the Honors Diploma and extra gpa 'bump') for the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019. Students in the Thesis program in 2019-2020 school year and beyond will follow the Distinction path below and no Honors Diploma will be granted from then on.

	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	World Language	Religious Studies	The Arts	Thesis	ESTAAR
<p>Coursework and/or Performance Benchmarks</p> <p>A grade of “A-” or higher in all departmental coursework (unless otherwise specified here).</p> <p>Shows outstanding character and growth as a member of these classes.</p>	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP English OR two semesters of a humanities-based design studio <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction English 4 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Honors Math courses Participation in one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Early-Start Calculus” OR AP Statistics OR AP Calculus <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction An additional AP Math Course or approved additional coursework in math 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *at least 1 AP Science course in progress or 2 Honors courses, with a minimum grade of A- or higher <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Level 1 Distinction and * An additional AP Science course or Grade of A- or higher in two year long sciences beyond graduation requirement (includes computer science or a studio-based science/engineering) 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade of A- or higher in ONE Social Studies Course beyond graduation requirement OR Grades of A- or higher in TWO Social Studies Courses at the Honors or AP Level (B+ or higher for AP World/AP US History taken in 9th or 10th grade) <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction Grade of A- or higher in TWO Social Studies Courses beyond graduation requirement OR Grades of A- or higher in THREE Social Studies Courses at the Honors or AP Level (B+ or higher for AP World/AP US History taken in 9th or 10th grade) 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade of A- or higher in level I, II, III, and IV language <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction Grade of A- or higher in level I, II, III, IV, and AP language OR Grade of A- or higher in level I, II, III, IV, and Earned Honors in Global Studies Class 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 course taken beyond the graduation requirement <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction. 2 courses taken beyond the graduation requirement 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One course beyond the graduation requirement in the discipline of distinction (Dance, Visual Art, Drama, Music) Select Ensemble participation <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction A second course beyond the graduation requirement in the discipline of distinction, including AP course (if offered) Select Ensemble participation 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be admitted to and complete a full year of Level 1 Seminar Craft and submit a project proposal Meet all “major” deadlines involved with the project development <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction Complete the Level 2 Thesis course Successfully complete required summer work toward completion of the project and earn a “satisfactory” evaluation by the Director and Advisor Deliver a public presentation Meet all “major” deadlines 	<p>Level 1 Distinction Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be admitted to and complete a full year of SRME that includes a student-designed and executed project. <p>Level 2 Distinction Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Distinction Complete a full year of ESTAAR (which includes all deadlines, committee meetings, presentations, etc.)
<p>Experiences Beyond the Classroom</p> <p>Consistent and significant participation, demonstrating outstanding character and growth, in at least one of these specialized, extracurricular, enrichment experiences for at least 2 years for Level 1 Distinction, and 3 years for Level 2 Distinction. Experiences beyond the classroom not listed here may be acceptable with appropriate department chair approval.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Fellow Troubadour Poetry Club and Slam Team National English Honor Society Speech and Debate Team Approved special extended work in writing or reading Approved Service Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mu Alpha Theta LSU Math Circle MathCounts mentoring Math tutoring in Writing Center Approved Service Project Moody’s Mega Math Challenge Lower/Middle School Teaching Experience AMC/AIME preparation and testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robotics Competition Team Science competitions, fairs, or presentations Approved Tech Scholars work Approved Service Project Lab Assistants Science Club Experimental Project outside of ESTAAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Studies Competitions and Conferences: National History Day, Louisiana State Social Studies Fair Model UN, Mock Trial, Youth Legislature, Speech and Debate Travel with Social Studies Department Involvement with Girl’s or Boy’s State or Girl’s or Boy’s Nation Approved Service Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language club Travel with EHS World Language program or on an approved independent trip State Club convention service or leadership Approved community world language-related festival involvement Approved Service Project Summer peer-tutoring Semester abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Vestry or other approved worship leadership Approved service learning project addressing needs of the community significantly beyond core service requirements. Eucharistic Minister service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District level recognition Participation in community productions Participation in national competitions Active club participation on campus Independent project with presentation or recital Approved Service Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required presentation at Junior Science Humanities Symposium, Science Fair, or other analogous presentation venue. 	

