



# **University High School Senior Project**

**The following packet is designed to help you plan, execute, and turn in your senior project. Please review these documents carefully as you complete your project.**

**If you have questions about any part of this document, please review the materials with your advisor!**

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## What is the senior project?

The senior project is designed to foster your ability to be a self-directed and independent learner, and to give you a chance to display your academic and personal talents while working on a project of your choice. This is an *individual* project.

The senior project is important because it goes beyond just measuring achievement through tests and scores. In the senior project, University High seniors are afforded the necessary opportunity to take a close look at themselves – past, present, future – and to assess their own skills and potentials. The project should be the culmination of a special area of pursuit that is unique to each individual's talents and needs such as:

- Recital
- Show or exhibit
- Research paper
- Extensive internship
- Educational travel
- Seminar or demonstration
- Etc. – do not be limited by this list

The Senior Project must:

- Generate an **essential question**. What are you trying to learn or discover through your inquiry process?
- Involve **collaboration** with the larger community and people outside of UHS
- Utilize **academic rigor** to push your thinking and skills in new ways
- Create a distinct **product/exhibition** to be presented upon completion

**The senior project is expected to reflect a minimum of 30 hours of effort.**

You must submit and have approved a proposal for your senior project before beginning. See the proposal form in this packet.

### **What the Senior Project is not:**

The senior project goes beyond the scope of a community service or fundraising project. These may be components of the project, but they must be part of a larger purpose that reflects the student's unique talents and experience. Students who seek to include fundraising activities in the senior project must obtain approval from the director, just as a student whose project involves sales or service to the broader community would need to research and secure permits from the appropriate jurisdiction. In most instances, fundraising should be targeted to individuals or groups outside the school community.



## Senior Project Checklist

- Establish a Committee**
  - Each student, in conjunction with the advisor, must select his/her own committee before the end of junior year.
  - The committee must have at least three, but not more than four members: this committee must include the student's advisor, a parent, and an *unrelated* resource member of the community. *Optional* - an additional member of the student's choice may be included.
- Write a proposal**
  - Seek approval by each member of the committee and administration.
  - Revise proposal until it meets standards (see Senior Project Proposal and Senior Project Feedback forms).
- Execute the project**
  - Document and log tasks and time (see Senior Project Progress Report).
  - Submit progress report.
  - If you encounter barriers that require changes to your approved proposal, **you must re-write and re-submit.**
- Upon completion, present project results** (see Senior Project Execution forms)



## Calendar Deadlines: 2011-2012

**The following deadlines apply to all seniors. You must meet these and turn in all assigned documents to your advisor by the deadline. Please review these deadlines carefully and plan ahead so that you can meet them!**

### **YOU SHOULD KEEP A COPY OF ALL FORMS IN YOUR PORTFOLIO.**

(Please note: Seniors who choose to graduate early will need to consult with their advisors for alternative completion and presentation deadlines.)

- Senior Project Committee  
The senior project committee must be chosen before the proposal is submitted
- April 15, 2011 - Early Proposal Deadline  
Senior Project Proposal due for all students who wish to begin their senior project over the summer. Turn in to your advisor with the Senior Project Proposal Feedback Sheet approved by outside committee members.
- May 13, 2011 - Approval or Revision Request for early proposals (Administration)  
If proposal is not approved before summer break, students may begin to work on the project, but should be aware that revisions may be required in the fall. *Proceed without approval at your own risk.*
- September 9, 2011 - Final Proposal Deadline  
Senior Project Proposals due for all seniors. Turn in to your advisor with the Senior Project Proposal Feedback Sheet approved by outside committee members.
- September 23, 2011 - Approval or Revision Request (Administration)
- September 2011-April 2012 - You should be working on completing your senior project!
- February 1, 2012 - Senior Project Progress Report due. Turn in to your advisor.
- April 2, 2012 - Senior projects should be completed by this date, and you should be working on filling out final forms.
- April 11, 2012 - Execution and Completion forms due. Turn in to your advisor for approval. You will be notified by April 23, 2012, if your project requires additions or adjustments.
- April 2-May 15, 2012 - Senior Project Presentations. Your advisor will schedule this presentation with you.



## Senior Project Proposal

**Please download these documents and type your plan neatly. Consult the school-wide calendar for due dates.**

The first formal element of the Senior Project is your proposal. This consists of two steps:

- Write a formal proposal that fully addresses your ideas and intentions for the project with specific attention to the requirements listed below. Submit for approval signatures; proposals will then be accepted or sent back for revisions if necessary.
- After receiving feedback from the review committee, finalize/revise any aspects of the project that have not yet met. Resubmit again for approval if necessary. Once you have approval signatures, you are ready to begin.

### **Part 1: Formal Written Proposal**

Format your paper using the MLA (Modern Language Association) style. For a quick reference, visit the Purdue University website:

Purdue OWL. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." The Online Writing Lab at Purdue. 10 May 2008. Purdue University Writing Lab. 12 May 2008  
<<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>>.

Your proposal must explain the ways in which your project will fulfill the requirements for the Senior Project. You should address each of the areas below.

Essential Question: What essential question do you intend to explore and answer as part of your senior project? Explain.

Objective and Rationale: In 1-2 paragraphs, explain what your goal and objective are for this senior project. What is your rationale for and interest in choosing your general area of investigation and specific essential question? Why is this a good idea for you? What do you hope to accomplish?

Product: What product, service, design, invention, experiment, or OUTCOME will be the result of your project? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs. Where are you going with your project? What evidence of completion will you show?

Academic Rigor and Learning: In 2-3 paragraphs, explain how your project will challenge you to think deeply and critically in order to increase your learning. Why is this project valuable to support your learning? How this project will build on your existing skills and interests yet also require you to explore new ideas and experiences? How will this project extend your thinking and your abilities?

What Resources do you think you will need? It is your responsibility to procure all materials for your project. Provide a brief description of the materials you will need to complete your Senior Project and where you will get these materials.



## Presentation Guide

Your advisor will work with you and other seniors in your group to schedule presentations.

The three important elements of your presentation are:

- Talk about the process you went through to create your final product
- Talk about what you learned
- Give specific examples or demonstrations

Here is an outline of what your presentation should look like:

### 1. Attention grabber.

A statement to get the audience's attention and get them focused on your presentation.

### 2. Self- introduction

### 3. Topic selection

What you did for your senior project?

Why you chose your topic?

What was the research you did to support your Project?

### 4. Research and process

Describe your final product

Describe the process you went through to create it

Give specific examples

*An artifact, visual aid or performance is required in support of the focused oral presentation*

Show pictures, video, the actual product, etc.

### 5. What you learned

How can you apply what you learned?

What you thought went well

What you feel could be improved

### 6. Conclusion

Summarize your speech

Leave your audience with an overall great impression of you and your project

### 7. Question and Answer Session

### Dress requirement

Dressing appropriately for a professional presentation is expected. The presentation is a major part of your project; you want to make a good impression.

PRACTICE AT HOME – THE MIRROR IS YOUR BEST FRIEND!

**My presentation date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_