

Faculty Involvement in Senior Projects

The primary function of the faculty mentor, who in many cases will be the senior's adviser, is to help seniors plan their projects in sufficient detail and to help students make the transition from classroom to independent student smoothly. The faculty mentor will serve as a resource and a guide as the student plans the project, corresponds with potential sponsors, and writes proposals and reports. The faculty mentor should serve as a sounding board for ideas and should help the student see potential strengths and weaknesses in his/her project. Although Senior Projects depend upon the student's initiative, the support and guidance that a mentor can offer are essential to a project's success.

1. All seniors who participate in Senior Projects are required to make it clear who their faculty mentor is. The faculty mentor must sign a form that will be submitted to the Committee.
2. Criteria for the Senior Project are outlined in the Senior Project packet. Faculty mentors should remind students to consult the packet to make sure that their project meets the guidelines set forth in the packet.
3. If a faculty mentor doubts the potential validity of the project s/he should feel free to contact the students and/or the Committee members so that timely guidance will prevent the waste of valuable time.
4. Seniors should review their "plan of attack" with their faculty mentor. Faculty mentors can help students develop a clearly defined and reasonable schedule.
5. Although student initiative is the goal, a degree of guidance in matters of careful planning to meet deadlines and to initiate effective correspondence with sponsors is very helpful to the student and the program.

The Senior Project process can be a stimulating one for faculty members as well as for the student. We welcome your participation in the program to make it as successful and diverse as possible. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact the Senior Program Committee (Vickie Garner, clerk, Elisa Shapiro, Bruce Evans) for information and answers.