

Guidelines for Producing an Outstanding Senior Project

The Senior Project should demonstrate a culminating senior level of achievement in the senior's area of interest. In other words, the Senior Project must involve a true learning stretch:

- The project involves the student doing some activity that he/she has never done before (or)
- The project involves the student building on an existing knowledge base in a new and significant manner.

Your Senior Project must have “real world” involvement. This means:

- The fieldwork portion of the project must entail the transmission of ideas, information, or service from the student to his/her intended audience. For example, some students have taught community classes, built or restored objects, performed in front of an audience or created an artistic or musical work.
- There must be evidence of performance-based fieldwork that shows the performance actually occurred in front of an audience or that the project was completed from start to finish by the senior student— pictures, video, etc.
- Fieldwork involving writing (pamphlet, poetry, book chapters, etc.) must be “published”, that is, put in a finished form for an active audience to read. It must then be distributed to the intended audience.
- Fieldwork that is based on observations of a particular activity must involve more than mere observation; the student must then **DO** something meaningful and significant with these observations. That means that you can not just “hangout.”
- Your Senior Project should be more sophisticated and complex than projects and papers that you created when you were an underclassman.