

WASD Graduation Project Overview of the Process

The first step in the Graduation Project is identifying an interest. In the past these have fallen into several categories.

Career possibilities

In the past many students have used their Senior Experience to investigate a career they may be considering. It is also a good addition to your resume. Conversely if you spend your learning about a particular field and it turns out you do not like it then you have saved yourself thousands of dollars in tuition and hours of aggravation preparing for the wrong field.

Applying an existing skill in a new way

Under this general category students have devoted themselves to applying skills in new areas. This might involve teaching music or using one's foreign language skills to help immigrants, among other things.

Developing a new skill

Some students have used the Senior Experience to develop new skills that will serve them well throughout college and adult life. They may have nothing to do with what you want to do as a career or be directly related with anything you have done before. For example these have included things like general contracting and auto repair.

Research

Students in this category have used their Senior Experience to investigate something that they have not had an opportunity to in school. This could be something academically related (bio-medical research, history) or not (like genealogy). The student chooses a sponsor who is particularly suited to guide the research or is an expert in the field that the student is investigating.

Community Service

Finally some students have used this time to give something back to the community. As you are aware there are many opportunities and organizations that rely on people doing community service. Currently, students are working with charities, the elderly, and children in and out of school. The GP is an opportunity (given our busy lives perhaps the last opportunity) for students to explore any and all areas of interest.

One major components of GP is setting up goals and objectives for your GP. You must set goals and objectives for your GP.

Once you have identified your interest you need to develop your goals. What do you want to achieve with your senior experience. This is your opportunity to learn whatever you want. You will develop your preliminary goals in conjunction with your teacher partner and complete the Proposal form. A parent signature is required for final approval of topics and goals.

What is the 'final product' of the GP?

The goal of the GP is for students to create and go through their own learning experience. After 'The Experiential Phase' the final phase of GP is the presentation and the submission of the written component. Each student will present to a panel the goals and experiences he/she had during their GP in a prepared oral presentation. For further guidelines and expectations about the presentation please refer to the presentation evaluation rubric.

The written component is the student's opportunity to reflect on what they accomplished or failed to accomplish and what experience helped them to learn about themselves and serve as documentation of work performed. The presentation is a requirement of the course, but the experience itself is the most important product of the GP. **Be mindful that the months leading up to the presentation, all students will be required to meet deadlines and hand in paperwork must be submitted prior to beginning the project.**