

SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL MENTOR STATEMENT

The assessment of your mentee's Senior Research Project has a quantitative value of 250 points. As you are the subject matter expert in your mentee's discipline, you have complete discretion as to how you complete the assessment of the project.

The deadline for to receive your assessment will be Reading Day of the fall semester. You should set a deadline with your student by which you will need to receive the final version from them in order to be able to provide a completed assessment for their project.

Note: The page expectation may be included or not as a requirement of assessment. The pages necessary to address the project and its final outcomes should be set on an individual basis framed on your discipline and your expertise. Likewise, citation style should be consistent with your discipline and may be included or not as a requirement of assessment.

1. Why is the project worthy of honors credit?
2. What makes it unique or challenging for the student?
3. Does the project overlap with a major project? If so, describe the additional work the student is doing beyond normal requirements.

	Did Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Total Points per Criteria
Synthesize information into a collective line of reasoning				
Interpret the global significance of works of art, music, theatre, film, literature, or philosophy to the human experience <i>OR</i> Formulate reasonable explanations of quantitative or qualitative data				
Justifies key results or procedures and can fully explain assumptions and reasons				
Exhibit integrity and reliability in individual action and institutional activities				
Your Criteria HERE				
Your Criteria HERE				
Your Criteria HERE				
Your Criteria HERE				
TOTAL POINTS (250)				

SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL MENTOR STATEMENT - Example

Student Name: Holly Honors

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ima Mentor

Project Title: "Exploring the Effects of Unicorn Sightings on College Student Motivation"

1. Why is the project worthy of honors credit?

This project is worthy of honors credit because it goes beyond typical course expectations in scope, methodology, and analysis. The student is designing an original survey study to investigate how exposure to whimsical or imaginative phenomena (in this case, "unicorn sightings") may influence college student motivation. The project demonstrates advanced skills in research design, data collection, and interpretation, and it addresses a creative and novel research question that has not been explored in the field.

2. What makes it unique or challenging for the student?

The project is unique because it combines elements of psychology, behavioral science, and creative inquiry, requiring the student to learn and apply multiple research techniques independently. The challenge lies in designing a credible survey instrument, analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, and interpreting results in a way that is both rigorous and imaginative. The student is also tasked with developing a framework for understanding how whimsical experiences may influence motivation, which requires synthesis across disciplines.

3. Does the project overlap with a major project? If so, describe the additional work the student is doing beyond normal requirements.

While the student is completing a standard senior psychology project on motivation, the honors component adds multiple layers of complexity. Holly is conducting an expanded literature review that incorporates interdisciplinary sources, designing a novel survey instrument, and performing a detailed statistical and thematic analysis of the data. She is also producing a polished report suitable for potential publication or presentation, which goes beyond the requirements of the standard major project and provides a rigorous challenge appropriate for honors credit.

EXAMPLE 1

	Did Not Meet Expectations 0-79%	Meets Expectations 80-89%	Exceeds Expectations 90-100%	Total Points per Criteria
Synthesize information into a collective line of reasoning	Ideas disorganized or unsupported	Ideas organized with some gaps in reasoning	Ideas clearly organized, logically developed	10
Interpret the global significance of works of art, music, theatre, film, literature, or philosophy to the human experience <i>OR</i> Formulate reasonable explanations of quantitative or qualitative data	Limited insight; reasoning unclear	Adequate interpretation or explanation; minor gaps	Deep insight; fully explained, well-justified	10
Justifies key results or procedures and can fully explain assumptions and reasons	Justifications incomplete; assumptions unclear	Justifications mostly complete; minor gaps	Justifications thorough; assumptions fully explained	10
Exhibit integrity and reliability in individual action and institutional activities	Frequent lapses in reliability or ethics	Generally reliable and ethical; few lapses	Fully reliable and ethical; professional conduct throughout	10
References	Less than 5	5-10	More than 10	100
Pages	Less than 15	15-24	25+	100
APA Format	Major Errors	Minor Errors	Near Perfect	10
TOTAL POINTS (250)				250

SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL MENTOR STATEMENT - Example

Student Name: Penny Portfolio

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Artie Advisor

Project Title: "Designing an Interactive Pop-Up Exhibit: How Imaginary Creatures Inspire College Campus Creativity"

1. Why is the project worthy of honors credit?

This project goes beyond typical class assignments by creating a fully realized, interactive pop-up exhibit that combines art, design, and storytelling. Penny demonstrates advanced creative and technical skills and engages an audience in an imaginative, immersive experience, making it a clear honors-level endeavor.

2. What makes it unique or challenging for the student?

The project is unique because it integrates visual design, narrative, and interactive elements. Penny must plan, prototype, and iterate multiple components while ensuring the exhibit is both engaging and conceptually clear, requiring problem-solving and synthesis beyond standard coursework..

3. Does the project overlap with a major project? If so, describe the additional work the student is doing beyond normal requirements.

While Penny's major coursework includes individual art projects, the honors project adds interactive design, portfolio documentation, and supplementary materials for audience engagement. These elements go beyond typical requirements and provide a rigorous honors-level challenge.

EXAMPLE 2	Did Not Meet Expectations 0-69%	Meets Expectations 70-89%	Exceeds Expectations 90-100%	Total Points per Criteria
Synthesize information into a collective line of reasoning	Ideas scattered, connections weak	Ideas mostly connected; some logical flow	Ideas fully synthesized; strong, clear reasoning	60
Interpret the global significance of works of art, music, theatre, film, literature, or philosophy to the human experience <i>OR</i> Formulate reasonable explanations of quantitative or qualitative data	Limited interpretation or explanation	Adequate understanding; some analysis	Exceptional interpretation; demonstrates insight and depth	40
Justifies key results or procedures and can fully explain assumptions and reasons	Justifications missing or flawed	Mostly accurate justifications; minor errors	Justifications precise, fully supported, insightful	40
Exhibit integrity and reliability in individual action and institutional activities	Ethical or reliability issues evident	Generally reliable; mostly professional	Highly reliable; exemplary professionalism	40
Creativity / Originality	Little originality or impact	Some originality; moderate impact	Highly original; significant impact	30
Contribution to Field / Future Work	Limited contribution or relevance	Moderate contribution; some potential	Strong contribution; potential for publication or further research	30
Collaboration / Engagement	Minimal engagement with mentor / peers	Some engagement; limited collaboration	Actively engages; demonstrates strong collaboration	10
TOTAL POINTS (250)				