

OVERVIEW

A graduation project is required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The USC High School Graduation Project is designed to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate knowledge they have gained. Students are permitted to choose their area of study, explore new avenues, and select a format to demonstrate what they have learned.

This graduation project could be an extension of the students' activities, interests, or coursework. Finally, creating either a product or oral presentation may complete the project.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Students may work alone, in pairs, or in small groups.
- The project may be an extension of an existing course, a non-paid community service, or an extension of a club, activity, or interest.
- The final product must be original work with appropriate citations for borrowed resources, research performed outside of the classroom, and evaluated during the year in which the project was completed.

LIST OF POSSIBLE GRADUATION PROJECTS

English: Senior Research Project Junior Research Project Sophomore Research Project	Carnegie Science Fair Chemistry Scrapbook Project Chemistry Science Fair Project "Creek Connections" Aquatic Biology Projects Physics Construction Project Junior Engineering and Technical Society Landscape Engineering Botany Project Discovery Quilts Biology Scavenger Hunt Physics Pasta Bridges Biology Mouse Olympics Envirothon	AP Psychology End of Year Project IB Psychology Internal Assessment Experiment IB History of the Americas Internal Assessment Honors/AP American Research Paper	Mathematics and Music Compound Growth Use of Logarithms Mathematics and Economics IB Portfolios Non Euclidean Geometries Symbolic Logic Design the Blueprints for Your Dream House
Foreign Language: Exchange Student Journal Bayer Apprenticeship German City Research Project Spanish Autobiography Senior German Paper Original Short Story in Spanish IB French Travel Project <u>Petit Prince</u> Paper Latin and/or Greek Art Project	Social Studies: Stock Market Project World War II Project Junior Research Project Psychology Projects MYP Personal Project Haiti Project AP Economics River Project	Mathematics Fibonacci Numbers Pascal's Triangle Variation History of Matrices Weather Prediction Translations Using Matrices History of Linear Programming Cryptography History of Quadratics Bungee Barbie and Beyond Science of Chaos Prime Numbers Mathematics and Economics IB Portfolios Prime Numbers	Other: District Video Projects District Graphic Projects Choral/Band/Orchestra Scores Internships, Apprenticeships Governor's School Project Community Based Learning IB Extended Essay Eagle Scout Girl Scout Gold Award Engineer Design Project Extended Volunteer Work Individual Project of Choice
Science: Science PowerPoint Presentation (Biology) Science Bowl (Overall Science) Physics Power Point Portfolio Chemistry Olympics Forensic Mystery Project PA Junior Academy of Sciences Projects			

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A GRADUATION PROJECT

1. What are my academic, athletic, activity, and volunteering interests?
2. In which area would I enjoy doing additional research, design, or service?
3. What is a realistic project for me, in terms of time?
4. Do I want to complete my project as part of an existing class or independently?
5. Could the project assist me with my college admissions/college essays?
6. Is there a budget concern?
7. Is there a transportation concern?
8. Who can assist me with this project?

TIMELINE

- Students can complete their project as early as the freshman year.
- By the beginning of the senior year—select topic/project, submit a proposal, and obtain a classroom teacher/project advisor from the community or school.
- By April of the senior year—present, exhibit, or perform a project, complete evaluation and thank classroom teacher/project advisor, and have counselor record graduation project grade on permanent record.

CLASSROOM TEACHER/PROJECT ADVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Offer support and comments.
- Challenge the student's thinking.
- Help student see long-term value in completing this project.
- Evaluate project if part of his/her class.

COUNSELOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meet with students during grades nine through eleven to explain the graduation project.
- Document the project and completion date on transcript.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review the graduation project brochure.
- Offer support during the project.
- Offer assistance in an area of expertise.

ASSESSMENT

- Present, exhibit, or perform completed project by April of the senior year.

CHECKLISTS

Student:

- Read brochure
- Brainstorm possibilities
- Create proposal
- Select a classroom teacher/project advisor
- Get signatures (parent/classroom teacher/project advisor)
- Ask questions
- Review timetable
- Submit draft to classroom teacher/ project advisor
- Examine timetable
- If needed, request technical support
- Present, exhibit or perform the project
- Submit self-evaluation to classroom project advisor
- Thank classroom teacher/project advisor
- If applicable, secure letter of recommendation for college and/or job application
- Give counselor graduation project topic and grade to place on permanent record card

Classroom Teacher/Project Advisor:

- Provide overview of requirements
- Review timetable for completion
- Review/discuss rate of progress
- Steer student toward appropriate resources
- Challenge, question, stimulate thinking and creativity
- Review timeline
- Monitor student progress and report to counselor if there are any problems
- Review project and offer advice for improvement
- Complete the evaluation form and submit to counselor