


Beginning with the class of 2010, all Wake County Public School System students will be required to complete a Graduation Project as one graduation requirement for several Courses of Study. These courses of study are Career Tech Prep, College Tech Prep, and College/University Prep.



WHAT IS A GRADUATION PROJECT?

The Graduation Project has four components:

1. A research **paper** that demonstrates your proficiency in conducting research and writing about a chosen in-depth topic,
2. A **portfolio** containing your reflective writings or logs and other evidence demonstrating process and progress,
3. A tangible **product** that could be a service or experience related to a field of study or research,
4. An oral **presentation** that represents your entire process from beginning to end made before school and community judges.



WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN COMPLETING A GRADUATION PROJECT?

1. **Brainstorm** – Consider aspects of your community that relate to your particular interest or specific skill learned. Use newspapers, local media, or conversations with community leaders.
2. **Focus** – Examine each idea to weigh benefits to you and to the community.
Is the idea realistic?
3. **Implement** – Once the idea is fully developed, implement it.
4. **Evaluation** – Examine, along with your advisor and those being served, the planning process, the procedures used, and the results and they make suggestions for improvement.
5. **Reflection** – Think about the impact of the project and how it has changed your attitude, thinking, and behavior.



WHAT MAKES A GRADUATION PROJECT MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE?

The Experience

- Meets a recognized need in the community,
- Prepares for Service-Learning,
- Develops knowledge and skills needed for service,
- Achieves curricular objectives through Service-Learning,
- Develops student Responsibility,
- Establishes community partnerships, and
- Reflects upon the service-learning experience



WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning applies academic content and skills in a real-life context. It is a thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in and meets the needs of the community.



WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF SERVICE-LEARNING? Successful Projects Address

- community needs related to health, poverty, social issues, or the environment,
- local history or culture documentation through interview, archival research, and photography, and
- students helping students through mentoring or tutoring.



WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU?

Research conducted in 2001 revealed that admissions representatives from highly competitive colleges and universities from across the country considered participation in a Graduation Project when reviewing applications.

The North Carolina Graduation Project allows you to demonstrate your ability to design and participate in a multi-phased, research-based learning process while preparing for a future in higher education, vocational institutions, or the workforce.



WHAT ARE COURSE OPTIONS THAT HELP COMPLETE THE GRADUATION PROJECT?

You may choose from one of the several alternatives in Career and Technical Education:

- Career and Technical Education Advanced Studies
- Career and Technical Education Internships
- Career and Technical Education Cooperative Learning
- Career and Technical Education Apprenticeships
- Career and Technical Education Student Organizations' Competitive Events, Service Project, or Leadership Activity.



WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Follow school adopted procedures and meet deadlines:
- Identify your topic and follow school process for approval,
- Provide documented parental approval of the selected research topic, product, and mentor.
- Adhere to state and school requirements guiding each component,
- Demonstrate competent/proficient skills in the completion of each component,
- Demonstrate adherence to the locally developed ethical standards required when conducting research, producing a product, completing related documentation and/or validating processes.