

NM

North Montco
Technical Career Center

Senior Graduation Project

This manual applies to all seniors who attend
North Montco Technical Career Center

Methacton
North Penn
Perkiomen Valley
Souderton
Wissahickon

**NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER
SENIOR GRADUATION PROJECT**

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THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

According to Pennsylvania Department of Education Regulations Authority: Pennsylvania School Code – Chapter 4, Section 4.24 – High School Graduation Requirements

“Each school District...Shall specific requirements for graduation in the Strategic Plan. Requirements shall include course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project and results of local assessments aligned with the academic standards. The purpose of this project, which may include research, writing, or some other appropriate form of demonstration, is to assure that the student is able to apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information and communicate significant knowledge and understanding.”

Definition of Senior Graduation Project

A Senior Graduation Project is the organization of the curriculum around student projects, which combines the technical and academic disciplines. Designed to enable students to blend material from very different courses and disciplines, it allows for the greatest individualization. A Senior Graduation Project is a means of demonstrating that students have mastered a variety of competencies through the requirement of writing a report, developing a physical representation of some nature and making an oral presentation. NMTCC’s Senior Graduation Project has an occupational emphasis, requiring the use of technical labs. The project allows students to develop certain capacities not conventionally taught, including the ability to work independently, to solve problems, and to present results and findings to others. Students will be engaged in complex and challenging tasks that allow integration of learning, generation of knowledge, and creation of products.

Purpose of a Senior Graduation Project

The purpose of the Senior Graduation Project is to adopt highly rigorous and measurable standards for academic and vocational performance that reflect global demands and requirements to make a diploma meaningful. The Senior Graduation Project allows the student to demonstrate problem-solving skills, research skills, and independent work. The project also allows the student to demonstrate the ability to see multiple viewpoints, weigh conflict, and support views with credible evidence. The Project also permits the opportunity for ownership of learning, and the development of time management skills.

Major Goals

The goals for a Senior Graduation Project center on:

1. Basic communication skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking
2. Past and present application of acquired technical skills
3. The ability to locate and interpret information and ideas gained in making decisions and solving problems.

All technical students from the sending districts must present a Senior Project based on their technical concentration at NMTCC.

INSERT FORM
NUMBER
STU-121 HERE

(Sr. Grad Project
Contract/Proposal)

Written Component

The Senior Graduation Project requires an extensive written component to be completed. This component of the Senior Graduation Project is a demonstration of your ability to communicate with others in written form. Since each project is unique, the written component will assume different forms and reflect an individual's growth and personal preference. The original written work reflects in-depth learning, clarity of thought, and proper usage of the writing process. It may include background history on the chosen topic, the process you plan to go through in developing and designing the product, or other important information.

The following are types of written components:

A Research Paper

A "How To" Paper

An Experience Paper

A combination of any of the above

Your technical instructors will determine when the written component is due and must approve the format you have selected.

All written components MUST include the following: (See reference guide packet included)

I. Sources

A. Five Minimum

1. Interviews (no more than two interviews is suggested)
2. Internet Sites
3. Professional Journals
4. Magazines or books

B. Bibliography

1. Students are required to follow the format provided
2. APA and MLA format will be accepted]

For help with documentation you can go to the following website:

<http://www.citationmachine.net>

II. Written Component

A. Three pages minimum

B. Typed

C. Double-Spaced

D. Margins will be 1-inch top/bottom and sides, 12 pt. New Roman font

III. Outline Required

- IV. Rough drafts will be submitted and revised as necessary to meet instructor's expectations. A rough draft is a first time attempt containing all written components.
- A. Individual conferences with the instructors and/or Instructional Assistants will be conducted periodically throughout the writing process.
 - B. Conferences will be used to guide students through the process to ensure understanding of the instructor's comments and expectations.
 - C. Each draft should include the following:
 - Title of Project
 - Date Submitted
 - Name
 - Institution- North Montco Technical Career Center and Sending School
 - Technical Program

INSERT FORM NUMBER STU- 155

(Sr. Project Student
Interview)

Product or Project

The product/ project must be chosen from the technical area. The product/project can be, but is not limited to a physical item you manufacture. The product/project can also consist of a service program, business simulation, volunteer work experience, or any other product/project approved by the technical instructor. The product/project should be an extension of the curriculum in the lab areas. The product/project and written component are reflective of a single topic. The student must demonstrate the ability to evaluate, synthesize, and apply knowledge through research to show completion of product/project. The product/project needs to show attention to detail, demonstration of completeness, unity of design, and an imaginative and creative perspective.

Your technical instructors will specify product/project deadlines for each marking period.

The product/project will also be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Fulfills senior level capabilities
- Quality of the product/project
- Evidence of acquired knowledge and skills of the topic
- Evidence of thought for topic selection
- Visual Aids that reflect the specific topic

Presentation

The oral presentation integrates information from the written component and product/project. The presentation should clearly convey that the speaker has a comprehensive grasp of the topic. The oral component must show the student's ability to communicate with others, and the presentation should teach as well as inform. The presentation should also include a description of the process used to develop the product/project and what was learned through the process. *Each individual technical instructor will determine the location of the presentation, the date of the presentation, and the audience requested. This will be determined by the third marking period.*

The format delivery for the presentation should include:

- An introduction that effectively engages interest and establishes a sense of purpose and direction
- A body of content that conveys essential and critical ideas that flow logically and smoothly supported with appropriate illustrations or examples;

- A conclusion that effectively summarizes and synthesizes the ideas presented
- Appropriate content for intended audience
- Demonstration of expertise on the topic
- Confident responses to questions posed by the evaluators
- Use of visual aids support and increase the effectiveness of the presentation
- Appropriate attire

Senior Project Presentation

Individual student exhibits must include the following:

- A tri-fold display
- A product/ project
- A portfolio that includes the written component
- Supporting materials and resources
- The ability to answer questions to verbally defend product/project

Reflection and Self Evaluation

On a separate piece of paper or the reflection questionnaire, reflect on the questions/statements.

1. What knowledge, skills, or abilities have you gained as a result of your project?
2. Identify the best accomplishment of this project.
3. Did you meet the goals of this project?
4. How will you use what you have learned in the future?
5. What part of the project provided you the most difficulty?
6. If you were to complete another project what would you do differently?
7. What recommendations would you make to improve the Graduation Project Process?

Submit this questionnaire to your technical instructor at the conclusion of your presentation within 72 hours.

Timeline for Senior Project

First Marking Period.....September 6, 2011 to November 4, 2011

Second Marking Period.....November 7, 2011 to January 20, 2012

Third Marking Period.....January 23, 2012 to March 23, 2012

Fourth Marking Period.....March 26, 2012 to June 8, 2012

Component and/or Assignments required for each marking period will be determined by the Technical Instructor.

It is suggested that you start early on the development of your product and stay on the proper timeline.

Senior project will count for a minimum of 25% of each marking period's grade.

In the last marking period, all required components will count for a minimum of 50% of that marking period grade.

SENDING SCHOOL INFORMATION

NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL

1340 Valley Forge Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
Principal: Mr. Burton T. Hynes
Phone: 215-368-9800
Email: hynesbt@npenn.org
Senior Project Contact: Mrs. Colleen Felder
felderce@npenn.org

METHACTON HIGH SCHOOL

1001 Kriebel Mill Road
Norristown, PA 19403
Principal: Ms. Judith Landis
Phone: 610-489-5000
Email: jlandis@methacton.org
Senior Project Contact: Mrs. Laurie Merkle
lmerkle@methacton.org

PERKIOMEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

509 Gravel Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426
Principal: Ms. Cynthia Lewis
Phone: 610-489-1230
Email: cylewis@pvsd.org
Senior Project Contact: Ms. Patti Colucci
pcolucci@pvsd.org

SOUDERTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

625 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964
Principal: Mr. Samuel Varano
Phone: 215-723-2808
Email: svarano@soudertonsd.org
Senior Project Contact: Mr. William Coddington
wcoddington@soudertonsd.org

WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL

521 Houston Road
Ambler, PA 19002
Principal: Mr. Lyn Fields
Phone: 215-619-8112
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Senior Project Contacts: Mr. David Perrine
dperrine@wsdweb.org
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