

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 specify 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 an academic and vocational performance that reflects 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. It 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 Sr. Project based on their technical concentration at NMTCC.

SENIOR GRADUATION PROJECT

Contract/Proposal

Student Name _____

Student Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

NMTCC Technical Instructor _____

Mentor is the employer or person
that helped you with the project other than your instructor _____

Sending School _____ Homeroom Teacher _____

Project Topic:

Brief Description of Topic: On a separate piece of paper, typed in 12 pt. TimesNew Roman font and double spaced, describe the following:

- What is your project?
- Why did you choose it?
- What is the expected product or outcome?
- What visual or technical tool will be used in the presentation?
- What steps will be taken to complete the project?
- What resources and/or materials are needed?
- Project Goals: (A minimum of 3 goals relevant to what you hope to accomplish while taking on this project.)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

Signatures:

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Senior Project Coordinator – Sending School _____ Date _____

NMTCC Technical Instructor _____ Date _____

Principal – NMTCC _____ Date _____

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 your growth and personal preference. This 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, and other relevant information.

The following types of the written components are :

- 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 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 web site :

<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. Times New Roman font

III. Outline required

IV. Rough drafts will be submitted and revised as necessary to meet instructors

expectations. A rough draft is a first time attempt containing all written components.

- A. Individual conferences with the instructors , Senior Project Coordinator 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 and Sending School
 - Technical Program

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 project/product deadlines for each marking period.

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

- Fulfillment of 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 the 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 Expo

On May 11, 2010 a Senior Project Exhibition is scheduled. The exhibition will include a display of each student's Senior Project. NMTCC administration, technical instructors, sending school administration, staff, parents, and employers will be invited to the exhibition.

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

Students are required to attend all sessions of the Senior Project Expo.

Times to be determined by Administration

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 the exhibition.

Timeline for Senior Project

First Marking Period September 8, 2009 to November 3, 2009

Second Marking November 4, 2009 to January 20, 2010

Third Marking Period January 21, 2010 to March 25, 2010

Fourth Marking Period..... March 26, 2010 to June 8, 2010

Senior Project ExhibitionMay 11, 2010

Component/Assignments required for each marking period

will be determined by the Technical Instructor

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.

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

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. Collen Felder felderce@npenn.org

METHACTON HIGH SCHOOL

1001 Kriebel Mill Road

Norristown, PA 19403

Principal: Ms. Judith Landis

Phone: 610-489-5000

Email: fcummins@methacton.org

Senior Project Contact :

Mrs. Laurie Markle lmerkle@methacton.org

PERKIOMEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

509 Gravel Pike

Collegeville, PA 19426

Principal: Mr. John Romanoski

Phone: 610-489-1230

Email: jromanoski@pvsd.org

Senior Project Contact :

Ms. Brittany Hueston bHueston@pvsd.org

SOUDERTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

41 North School Lane

Souderton, PA 18964

Principal: Mr. Samuel Varano

Phone: 215-723-2808

Email : svarano@soudertonsd.org

Senior Project Contact :

Mr. William Coddington wcoddington@soudertonsd.org

Mr. Robert Wood rwood@soudertonsd.org

WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL

521 Houston Road

Ambler, PA 19002

Principal: Mr. William Hayes

Phone: 215-619-8112

Email: whayes@wsd.k12.pa.us

Senior Project Contact :

Mr. David Perrine dperrine@wsd.k12.pa.us