

Independent Projects Criteria & Proposal Questions

Project Criteria

The principal criteria that make a successful Mini-Term project are academic merit and a well thought-out timeline of goals to be achieved. The Mini-Term Committee reviewing the project proposals will principally consider the following:

- 1) **academic merit of the project,**
- 2) **goals that you want to achieve during Mini-Term, and**
- 3) **constraints on the project. (i.e. time and resources required, etc.)**

Academic merit incorporates the combination of creativity and various resources, skills, and forms of learning necessary to develop an organized and thorough understanding of a subject. A project with strong academic merit typically involves multiple forms of learning that may include investigating a particular subject, developing a significant skill, problem solving, critical thinking, or many others. There are also numerous sources of information that a student can employ as resources: books, journals, websites, experiments, experts in the field, audio and visual media, etc.

A project that is limited in terms of forms of learning and resources is likely not a good project. In order to assure strong academic merit, you should tackle your project from different points of view using various approaches in order to develop as complete an understanding of the subject as possible.

Visit the NCSSM Mini-Term website (<http://www.ncssm.edu/miniterm/>) to read several examples of good and bad project proposals and to review the Guidelines for Independent Projects. Please think through your proposal carefully and address the required questions completely, since you may only have one chance to convince the committee that the project idea is a valid one.

Proposal Questions

To submit a proposal for an Independent Project—whether as an individual or as a group—you must respond to the following questions on-line through your student Uni-Center account no later than **November 30th**.

Project Proposal Questions

Name(s) of all students involved

Name(s) of Sponsor(s)

Section I - Fundamentals of the Project

1. Describe the project in detail. What goals do you intend to achieve?
2. What is the academic merit of this project? What will you learn by doing it?
3. How would you share with the community what you have learned?
4. Give a detailed timeline of your intermediate and overall plans for each of the seven days of Mini-Term.

Section II - Specifics of the project

5. What resources or materials will you need to complete your project successfully, and how will you obtain them? (Include supplies, books, journals, travel expenses, etc.)
6. Are there specific location or equipment needs, on or off campus, and how will you address them? (e.g. Do you need multimedia equipment? Is there a mentor or other expert whom you need to contact? Does your project require you to travel?)
7. Assuming the \$10 you can receive from NCSSM is not sufficient to pay for your project, do you have means to obtain additional funding? If so, what and how?

Section III - Signatures

8. Signature of Student(s) indicating his or her commitment to completing the project as described.
9. Signature of Sponsor(s) indicating his or her approval of the project and commitment to provide required support.

Completed Independent Project Proposals must be submitted on-line (see Uni-Center link) no later than Friday, November 30, 2007. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered!