

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND SENIOR PROJECTS

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WHO SERVES ON THE COMMITTEE

- **Mentor:** Faculty/Researcher who guides the student project and is the primary evaluator. Reports on quality of student participation in the research and assists the student in the reporting of the results.
- **Reader:** An at-large member from the Department faculty. It is generally recommended that the reader not be connected with the project in a significant way so that he/she can give a more independent evaluation.
- **Coordinator:** Oversees program and ensures consistency in the application of program guidelines and evaluation standards.

MODALITIES & SCHEDULES FOR COMPLETING SENIOR PROJECTS

Summer	Fall	Spring
On-campus	1-unit 191 Continue research	1-unit 191 Write report, give oral
Off-campus internship	2-unit 191 Write report, give oral	
	1-unit 191 Continue research	1-unit 191 Write report, give oral
Spring	Summer	Fall
On-campus 1-unit 191	continue research 191 signup optional	1-unit 191 Write report, give oral

Please note that students can sign up for > 2 units total for the 191, subject to approval by the coordinator after consultation with the project mentor.

KEY STEPS IN THE PROCESS

Spring completion schedule:

1. Begin meeting with potential mentors no later than the previous Spring (for on-campus projects). Note that applications for summer internships occur in late Fall for the following summer.
2. Develop the research program with a mentor. Must provide a title, abstract, and brief description and preliminary schedule of proposed work for the application (to be turned in early in the Fall). If work is to be completed in summer internship, determine your work supervisor ASAP and inform the coordinator. The coordinator will contact this supervisor to see if they are willing and able to serve as a mentor under the guidelines of the Senior Project and check the appropriateness of the project proposed.

3. Find a faculty reader. (Mentor and coordinator can assist with this!)
4. Turn in application to the Physics Department office before the end of the 4th week of the Fall semester. Be sure to obtain ALL signatures required: mentor and reader; then leave the form for the coordinator to review and sign.
5. In the second semester, be sure to take note of the timetable for writing of the report! **NOTE THAT A DRAFT OF THE REPORT MUST BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE BEFORE AN ORAL PRESENTATION WILL BE APPROVED!**

Fall completion schedule:

Move up or down previous timeline one semester!

TIMELINE FOR WRITTEN REPORT

Before enrolling in the second semester, the student will have to submit two documents to the coordinator for his/her review to obtain their approval:

1. A copy of a one-page summary of the previous semester's work to their Faculty Mentor for their review and,
2. A copy of the response of the Faculty Mentor to this summary, supporting that the student is ready to enroll for the second semester.

Note the following formal requirements pertaining to the deadlines for written reports:

1. A first draft of the written report will be required by the beginning of the 10th week of instruction (2nd semester of 191). Note this will be given to the mentor for feedback, but can also be reviewed by other members of your committee.
2. The final draft will be due by the beginning of the 13th week and must be approved by the Committee before the oral presentation can be given by the student.

FEYNMAN AWARD FOR BEST UNDERGRAD RESEARCH PROJECT

- Endowed by emeritus professor Gene Barnes
- Awarded annually with an approximate award value of \$500
- To be presented at a special ceremony to be held in the early Fall each year
- There is no application; a committee will review all UG projects from the previous academic year and make their recommendation