

What components must my Graduation Project include?*

- ❑ Project approval form
- ❑ Formal proposal with timeline and project completion date
- ❑ Written **contract** – your agreement to complete the project – signed by you, your parent/guardian and school representative.
- ❑ A **statement** signed by you and your parent/guardian indicating you have read the policy regarding plagiarism
- ❑ **Mentor registration form**
- ❑ A **journal, log or scrapbook** that contains documentation of your work with a mentor throughout the project
- ❑ **Portfolio**
- ❑ **Resumé and interview**
- ❑ Prepared **oral presentation** that discusses the project
- ❑ A **tangible product**
- ❑ A **reflection paper**
- ❑ **Annotated bibliography** of sources used

**If you complete the credit through an independent contract, there are additional requirements such as an Advisor Registration Form, and your school may require you to meet with the advisor outside of regular school hours.*

How will my project be graded?

10 points	formal proposal
5 points	formal action plan
10 points	journal/log/scrapbook
10 points	annotated bibliography
20 points	tangible product
10 points	oral presentation
5 points	resumé
5 points	senior interview
10 points	portfolio
15 points	reflection paper



If this brochure leaves you with some questions about how to pursue your graduation project, don't hesitate to discuss them with your school advisor, principal or guidance counselor!




Office of
Secondary Curriculum
and Administration
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Frederick County Public Schools
Frederick, Maryland



Your
Chance
to Shine!


BEGINNING WITH THE CLASS OF 2006



It's Required for Graduation!

What is the Graduation Project?

It's a 1-credit FCPS graduation requirement. Some students complete the requirement as part of a high school course. Others complete the project through an independent contract or a transition education activity such as a special education, work-study or internship experience.



Who completes it?

All students, starting with the Class of 2006, must earn the Graduation Project credit to receive a high school diploma.

When do I complete it?

You're required to complete the work in either your junior or senior year of high school.

Why does FCPS require a Graduation Project?

Its purpose is to ensure that before you graduate you'll have produced a major project that:

- Showcases your interests and talents
- Enhances your lifelong learning skills
- Demonstrates your ability to think critically and solve real-world problems

What skills will I use?

You'll start by choosing and planning a project to solve a challenging problem. Then you'll draw on your skills to:

- Investigate, evaluate and organize information
- Monitor your own progress
- Write to inform and persuade others about your project
- Keep a journal, log or scrapbook
- Communicate what you've learned
- Reflect about ways to extend your knowledge and skills



What will I learn during the process?

In addition to gaining in-depth knowledge of your topic, you'll:

- Synthesize information from a variety of sources and disciplines to solve a real-world problem
- Investigate an area of personal or career-related interest
- Independently apply communication, problem-solving, management and technology skills
- Collaborate with experts
- Discover how the skills and knowledge you've developed throughout your school career apply to life beyond graduation.



How do I get started?

Brainstorm. Make a list of things you love to do or want to learn more about.

Your project might be something to benefit the community or your school. It can involve the arts or scientific inquiry or history—your family's or another time period altogether. Maybe you like to build things or dream of restoring an antique car. You can select a project that will help in your future career. The choices are almost limitless.

Talk over your ideas with your parents or guardians. But remember, the purpose of the Graduation Project is to strengthen your independent learning skills, and it requires you to take the lead.

What's next?

- Identify a teacher/advisor at your school who will help you monitor your progress and provide support as you do your project. If you need help choosing a teacher/advisor, contact your guidance counselor.
- Find a mentor who is an expert in the field of study for your project. Get your teacher/advisor's approval, and complete the Mentor Registration Form.
- Plan your Graduation Project with a definite beginning and end, and a tangible product.
- Make sure your project includes all the required components listed on the back of this page.
- Get approval signatures for your proposed project from your teacher/advisor, mentor and parent/guardian.
- Provide documentation that you meet or communicate regularly with your mentor throughout the project.

Your teacher/advisor will explain each step more fully and assist you along the way.

