

## **UPPER DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL - CULMINATING PROJECT OUTLINE 2025-2026**

The Upper Dublin High School Culminating Project is a required endeavor undertaken by each student in the Senior Class prior to graduation. *The purpose of the Culminating Project is to provide graduating Seniors an opportunity to apply learned skills and knowledge toward an experience that will impact their lives beyond high school and significantly enhance the meaningfulness of Senior Year.* The information provided below serves as a summary of the parameters which define the Culminating Project.

### **A. Project Options**

1. **Create or perform a work of art (drama, music, dance, painting, creative writing, sculpture)**  
A work of art can mean art in the traditional sense such as sculpture, painting, photography and music, but can also mean video and film, installations and other forms of expression through which people give meaning to their lives. Students who decide to perform a piece of music or recite Shakespearean soliloquies, for example, will need to thoroughly research the work.
2. **Explore a professional field of interest**  
This option enables students to experience a professional area of interest. The chosen profession may be a career consideration or simply a field in which more knowledge is desired. Students may intern or job shadow but may not receive any financial compensation from the sponsoring company or organization.
3. **Engage in community involvement**  
Students selecting this option will provide charitable service to some faction of the local community, work in a leadership role within the community, or participate in a project focused on school and community relationships.
4. **Test an original hypothesis**  
In this option, an assumption is made and tested. For example, "Clouds have to be in the sky for it to rain."
5. **Research a significant question**  
This option allows students to seek a relevant answer to a question of interest. It can be something of personal interest such as "How does sleep deprivation affect academic performance?" or it might be a question like "How has sports altered the course of history?" This option requires a **6-8 page research paper**, in addition to your presentation.

### **B. Project Types**

1. **Independent**  
The student works on his/her own after selecting from among the available project options. Meetings with a faculty advisor will take place periodically to discuss and assess progress.
2. **Sponsored**  
The student works regularly with an adult professional or organization outside of the Upper Dublin School District. Examples of such an arrangement might include an internship or shadowing project such as working at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* or alongside an architect. A sponsored project requires that the student have an auxiliary sponsor (outside of the district) in addition to his/her faculty advisor, to whom he/she would report.

### **C. Project Roles**

- **Student** – The student creates a meaningful project, follows the process, meets deadlines, submits required forms, and completes assignments. Throughout the process, students are expected to log time devoted to project completion in addition to details of their work. *Time spent on completion of the project should total a **minimum of twenty-five hours, outside of school time without compensation.***
- **Faculty Advisor** – The faculty advisor supports the student during the culminating project and conducts mandatory meetings as scheduled. The faculty advisor meets with the student and offers advice, guidance, and feedback on the development of the project through discussions based on the work the student has completed toward his/her culminating project. Each student must choose an advisor in the first marking period of his or her Senior year. The Faculty Adviser may not be a family member or relative.
- **Sponsor** – Only students choosing a sponsored project are required to obtain a sponsor for their project. The sponsor has expertise in an area of interest related to the student's culminating project, and will be a resource and/or will provide facilities or other support for the completion of this project. The sponsor may not be a family member or relative.

- **Culminating Project Coordinator** – The culminating project coordinator oversees the culminating project. The coordinator conducts activities that support the advisor, the student, and the development of the project. The coordinator oversees the project deadlines and requirements.

#### **D. Project Proposal**

The project proposal serves to explain the student's idea for the culminating project. On the Culminating Project Proposal Form, the student will briefly describe their idea and elaborate by answering three probing questions designed to explore the student's rationale and learning goals. In addition, the student will indicate their selected project option and type. Construction of the project proposal can be completed in collaboration with the faculty advisor and sponsor (if applicable). *The completed proposal form must be typed and printed in order to submit.*

See your CP Schoology page or <https://udsd.org/udhs/page/senior-culminating-project> for the proposal form.

#### **E. Project Format/Timeline**

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|------------------------|--|
| 1. May 15, 2025        | Presentation of Culminating Project facets       |
| 2. May 30, 2025        | Summer Proposals Due                             |
| 3. October 3, 2025     | Summer Projects Completely Done                  |
| 4. by October 8, 2025  | Non-Summer Project proposal due                  |
| 5. by December 5, 2025 | Schedule project presentation (see Mrs. Trainor) |
| 6. by March 6, 2026    | PROJECT COMPLETELY DONE                          |

#### **NOTE:**

- *Students are encouraged to accelerate the above timeline if the project permits.*
- *Students wishing to complete a major portion of their project over the summer must secure a faculty advisor in the spring of Junior Year, and have their proposal approved by a CP Coordinator before starting.*

#### **F. Project Evidence**

**Reflective Report** – Upon completion of the project, the student will write a **2-3 page paper (minimum of 2 full pages with 1" margins and 12 font)** which provides an expression of the reflections made over the course of the Culminating Project. *The report should include answers to the following questions:*

1. Describe your project (what did you do? How? What was involved? Etc.)
2. Why did you choose the idea for your project?
3. What obstacles did you encounter and how did you overcome these situations?
4. What successes did you experience and why?
5. How did working on the project deeply impact you?
6. How will the experience of the culminating project help you, and benefit the community, in the future?

**Final Product** – The student will create a presentation, performance or display based on the project option.

1. Presentation/Performance Option - Seniors will have the option of presenting/performing before a faculty panel or at a symposium. Presenting/performing before the panel or at the symposium will involve using formal speech and audiovisual media (and possibly dramatic or musical interpretation for performances). Length should be 5-10 minutes (10-15 minutes for groups) and should contain a background/introduction, information about the content of the project, and a closing segment with conclusions.
2. Display Option - The display option involves creating a tri-fold board display depicting all aspects of the project, and the senior(s) being available to answer questions at their display, at the project fair.

#### **G. Project Evaluation**

The final product (presentation, performance, demonstration, exhibit, etc.) and reflective report will be evaluated by the faculty advisor and/or other staff.

## UPPER DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL - CULMINATING PROJECT GUIDELINES 2025-2026

In planning your Culminating Project, you must remember the following:

- I. Total time spent on the project is to be a **minimum of 25 hours, and is to be completed outside of school time, without compensation.**
  - A. If working in a group, each person's contribution to the project is to be a minimum of 25 hours each.
- II. The Culminating Project, or portions of it, may also count as an NHS project; however, the Culminating Project is the primary project and should be larger in scope than the NHS project alone.
- III. **Project Cost** - Any costs incurred in completing the Culminating Project are the responsibility of the Senior(s). These may be covered out of pocket or through fundraising directly related to the project. Any fundraising through the school must be approved by the Activities Office/Mr. Smith, along with a 'fundraising form.'
- IV. **Projects involving fundraising or collections** need to be coordinated with the Director of Activities. It is suggested that the senior discuss the fundraiser feasibility with the Culminating Project Coordinators or the Director of Activities before submitting the project proposal.
  - A. Completion of a "Request for Fundraising Activity" form will be required and the number of fundraisers may be limited.
  - B. Monies should be handled through the UDHS Fund account. Any monies not, will require a financial ledger of debits and credits, and proof of donation to charity.
- V. **Murals** - Murals will not be painted directly onto the wall; they are to be painted onto **canvas**. Size the canvas to match the space for the mural. Paint your mural on canvas and then it can be hung on the wall space.
  - A. A **sketch** of your planned artwork must be provided with your proposal for administrative review.
- VI. Use of **UDSD Facilities**
  - A. Coordinated through UD Facilities Department
  - B. Work with your faculty adviser to secure use and permit for UD facilities.
  - C. See [www.udsd.org](http://www.udsd.org) > Community > Building/Facility Use for more information and contacts.
- VII. **Projects involving some level of risk or privacy issues will require special considerations and paperwork** for your protection and the district's protection.
  - A. These include:
    1. **Media Recording** – If your project will involve any type of media recording (photographing, video recording, etc.) of individuals, you will need to obtain their consent before proceeding.
    2. **Safety Hazards** – If your project will involve any type of hazard to your safety, the safety of others, or to property, you will need to have a qualified adult oversee portions of your project and complete a "Project Safety Form." Examples include the use of power tools, extreme physical exertion, etc.
    3. **Surveys/Interviews** – If your project will involve conducting simple surveys, questionnaires, or interviews of individuals, you will need to have each participant's "informed consent" and maintain the privacy of responses.
    4. **Science Research** – If your project will be a science research project involving experimentation, your faculty advisor must be a science teacher and you will need to follow all guidelines set forth by the Intel Science and Engineering Fair.
    5. **Participant Permission** – If your project will involve participants, such as in a 5K run or children's sports clinic, all participants will need to complete a permission/waiver form. Depending on the nature of the project, trained medical personnel may be required to be on site.
  - B. See a Culminating Project Coordinator for more details and forms.

VIII. **Projects involving writing a paper/research/etc.** will follow term paper guidelines including research, note-taking, and submission to turnitin.com for analysis. Additionally your faculty sponsor must be an English teacher.

*Rev. 4/21/2025*