

SENIOR OPTION PROGRAM
2011-2012

ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR OPTION PROGRAM
2011-2012

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Counselor: _____

SENIOR OPTION

The wide variety of students' interests, motivations and responses to education makes it clear that no single approach to learning is best for all students. Learning takes place in a variety of ways, under a variety of circumstances; it is a highly individualized process.

If we are to approach our goal of providing a school which is responsive to the needs and learning styles of all students, we must make available a practical variety of education alternatives. Therefore, Senior Option is a program designed to afford a twelfth grade student the opportunity to pursue areas of study which are beyond the scope of curricular offerings, and perhaps beyond the boundaries of the school building. Students interested in this program must realize that undertaking a senior option program requires a great deal of initiative and responsibility.

Local school districts have been granted the flexibility to allow senior students the opportunity to pursue a variety of educational activities or programs that are linked to the Core Content Standards, but go beyond a traditional school program. Some of these opportunities include interdisciplinary and theme based programs, independent study, magnet programs, student exchange programs, internships, career exploration, distance learning, community service, or other structured learning experiences.

ELIGIBILITY

The Senior Option Program is open to any student in grade twelve who:

1. has demonstrated sufficient academic proficiency, in the judgment of the Senior Option Committee, to assure that commitment to an alternative course of study would not jeopardize his/her regular class work, or the ability to graduate "on time."
2. has already earned and/or is earning sufficient credit to graduate.
3. is interested in pursuing a program of study, an internship, or an experience that extends beyond the school offered curriculum.

INITIATION OF STUDY

In order to initiate a Senior Option proposal a student must:

1. choose an area of study that extends beyond the scope of the Roxbury High School curricular offerings.
2. arrange to have a mentor (inside or outside of the school) serve as his/her advisor for the experience.

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3. submit a Senior Option application form and proposal to Mr. Swanson before June 1 of the school year preceding the pupil's senior year for a first semester or full-year study, and before December 15th of the senior year for a second semester study. In all but the most unique situations, the proposal should be submitted during the scheduling process for the pupil's senior year (spring/summer of the junior year).

Proposal

The typed proposal must be approved by the student's guidance counselor, student's parents, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent. The following elements must be included:

1. Objectives:

Clearly state what he/she intends to accomplish over the course of the Senior Option program.

2. Activities:

State how and when he/she will attain the planned objectives by indicating specific activities and accompanying timelines for those activities.

3. Proposed credits:

State the number of credits that he/she is attempting to earn.

4. Completion dates:

Indicate a completion date for the study. Any first semester study must be completed by February 1, and full-year or second semester studies must be completed by June 1.

5. Presentation:

For a 2.5 credit Senior Option study a student is expected to make one mid-semester status report and one final presentation before appropriate deadlines. For a 5 credit senior option, a student is expected to make one presentation at mid-year (*before Feb. 1st*) and one presentation at the conclusion of the study (*before June 1st*). In addition, the senior may be asked to prepare for a late spring evening presentation for the public and rising seniors.

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Grades/Credits/Restrictions

1. Once the Senior Option proposal has been made, a committee of educators (Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Guidance Counselor, and Teacher/Mentor...if applicable) will determine whether the student will be graded as Pass/Fail or assigned a numerical grade. Feedback from the student's mentor as well as from other appropriate sources (including the student's presentations) will be used to assign a grade for the Senior Option activity.
2. Credits will be awarded based on the amount of time spent on the experience as evidenced by the scope of the project. Students may not earn more than 5 credits in a senior option activity.
3. If, for any reason, the study is not completed successfully, no credit will be awarded.

Procedures

After acquiring the Senior Option booklet the following must occur:

1. Student returns completed packet and typewritten proposal to his/her Guidance Counselor. The proposal MUST contain parent and advisors signatures.
2. Guidance Counselor reviews Senior Option proposal, completes counselor portion with student and forwards proposal to the Principal.
3. The Principal reviews proposal and organizes initial meeting with the student's Guidance Counselor and Assistant Superintendent to determine if the proposal is deemed academically suitable. If the student's mentor is a staff member, he/she will be invited to the meeting as well. The committee may approve or amend the proposal, and it will determine the method of assessment.
4. Students may commence their program upon final approval of the Board of Education (see Policy #2320).
5. Documentation indicating successful completion of the senior option activity must be submitted in accordance with the written proposal according to the deadlines noted below.

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6. Student is responsible for making a presentation(s) respective to the Senior Option program as follows:
 - a. For a 2.5 credit Senior Option a student is expected to make one mid-year status report and one final presentation. (*1st Semester: February 1st / 2nd semester: June 1st*).
 - b. For a 5 credit Senior Option, a student is expected to make one presentation at mid-year (*before Feb. 1st*) and one presentation at the conclusion of the study (*before June 1st*).
 - c. A public presentation may be required in late spring as well.

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**ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR OPTION PROGRAM
Student Application Form and Proposal**

NAME: _____ SCHOOL YEAR: _____

GRADE: _____ DATE: _____

Contact Information: Phone: _____ and/or email: _____

TITLE OF SENIOR OPTION PROPOSAL: _____

Objectives of the study:

Activities to achieve objectives of the study:

Assessment of Activities – to be evaluated by Principal, Assistant Superintendent, mentor (if from the district) and/or Subject Area Supervisors. (ex. portfolio, performance, pictures, research project, log, etc...)

Must be approved by the following:

Senior Option Mentor: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Parent Approval: _____ Date: _____
Signature

TYPED PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION

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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT'S GUIDANCE COUNSELOR AND ATTACHED TO PROPOSAL

**ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL
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Guidance Counselor Recommendation Form**

NAME: _____ SCHOOL YEAR: _____

DATE: _____ GRADE: _____ COUNSELOR: _____

TITLE OF SENIOR OPTION TOPIC: _____

LENGTH OF TIME: () 1st Semester () 2nd Semester () Full Year

Credits being undertaken _____

These questions must be answered by your Guidance Counselor.

1. How many credits did the student earn by the conclusion of Grade 11?
2. Do you feel that this student is sufficiently motivated to undertake a Senior Option program and maintain appropriate attention to his/her other classes?

Yes _____ No _____

3. Do you recommend this student for a Senior Option Project?

Yes _____ No _____

Counselor's Signature

After signing, the counselor should submit this form to Mr. Swanson who will contact the student for the next step of the process.

Date received by Mr. Swanson _____