

SENIOR OPTION PROGRAM  
2019-2020

ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
SENIOR OPTION PROGRAM  
2019-2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
as of September 2019

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. In order to receive credits, the Senior Option must be a non-paid, volunteer activity/internship. 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 Common Core State 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.
4. has not failed any subjects the year before initiating the study.

**(THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO ELIGIBILITY RULES.)**

### **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.
3. only volunteer/unpaid initiatives will be accepted.
4. submit a Senior Option application form and proposal to Mrs. Bacchetta before May 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year preceding the pupil's senior year for a first semester or full-year study, and before December 15<sup>th</sup> of the senior year for a second semester study. The proposal should be submitted during the scheduling process of the pupil's senior year (spring of the junior year).

### **Proposal**

The typed proposal must be approved by the student's parents, advisor, guidance counselor, Director of Guidance, and Principal. 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 January 29, and full-year or second semester studies must be completed by June 1.

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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 Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>*) and one presentation at the conclusion of the study (*before June 1<sup>st</sup>*). In addition, the senior may be asked to prepare for a late spring evening presentation for the public and rising seniors.

Grades/Credits/Restrictions

1. The advisor will assign a numerical grade for the student in accordance with the guidelines for marking period grading. Such grade will be based on the quality of the study in adherence to the student's proposal. Feedback from the student's mentor as well as from other appropriate sources (including the student's presentations) will be used to assign a final 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.
4. 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 and forwards proposal to the Director of Guidance.
3. The Director of Guidance reviews proposal and organizes initial meeting with the student's Guidance Counselor and Principal to determine if the proposal is deemed academically suitable. The student's mentor 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.

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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.
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. (*1<sup>st</sup> Semester: January 29<sup>th</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> semester: June 1<sup>st</sup>*).
  - b. For a 5 credit Senior Option, a student is expected to make one presentation at mid-year (*before Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>* ) and one presentation at the conclusion of the study (*before June 1<sup>st</sup>*).
  - 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: \_\_\_\_\_ (as of 9/2019) DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF SENIOR OPTION PROPOSAL: \_\_\_\_\_

PREPARE A TYPED PROPOSAL AND SUBMIT WITH THIS APPLICATION.

INCLUDE IN YOUR PROPOSAL:

1. Objectives of the study
2. Activities to achieve objectives of the study

Assessment of Activities – to be evaluated by Principal, 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Mentor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Mentor Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if outside of RHS)

Parent Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this document I allow any member of the committee to contact the above mentor at any time during the school year as deemed necessary.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as of 9/2019)

TITLE OF SENIOR OPTION TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH OF TIME: ( ) 1<sup>st</sup> Semester ( ) 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Mrs. Bacchetta who will contact the student for the next step of the process.

Date received by Mrs. Bacchetta \_\_\_\_\_