***Graduation Project Frequently Asked Questions***

**What are the requirements of my mentor?**

Your mentor has to be approved by a parent/guardian. They must be at least 25 years old, and they cannot be a household family member. It is our suggestion that a mentor is not related to you. We’ve had students seek out community members they didn’t know for their mentors, and they’ve found a lifelong mentor, a job opportunity, or an extended internship. Pretty cool!

**Can my faculty advisor serve as my mentor as well?**

Yes, but be sure that teacher agrees to the time commitment of at least seven hours spent with you (outside of class and school).

**Can I use my internship or my Eagle Scout as my Graduation Project?**

Yes, but it must meet these guidelines. You can do an additional, seven hour extension to your internship. You must complete seven hours in addition to your internship requirement, and you would be expected to take a leadership role, just as you would with any Graduation Project.

In regards to Eagle Scout Projects, your project can count as long as it is happening while you are working on your Graduation Project. You cannot count hours that you have done in the past once you get to junior year and decide that’s what you want to do. Graduation Project should not be an afterthought. It should always be pre-planned.

**Can I count hours for what I’ve done in the past?**

No. There is not set time to start GP, but at our school, we begin the process during junior year. Students will write their proposal letters during the semester in which they have English III, and they will receive guidance and direction from their English III teacher.  ***Hours should never be completed before a proposal letter has been approved by the committee.*** It is highly likely that those hours will not count. Your project must be intentional, and we cannot stress enough that there is a process. If you have questions about this, see Ms. Hughes. She is always available to help you!

**Can I count product hours while I’m in school?**

No, your product hours should be done after school. You cannot complete hours during a class. However, you can complete time during Smart Lunch, before school, or after school. Workdays would be fine too. The hours should be completed on your own time.

**Can I count hours as my research paper and my portfolio?**

No, your product is on your own time. Time will be spent in English class to prepare you for the paper and portfolio, and that should not be counted as part of your product. Those are all three separate parts of the process.

**Can I use my research paper from another class in English IV?**

No, your paper should not be completed prior to English IV, as that is a requirement for the course.

**What do I do if I want to start early? Before I’m in English III?**

See Ms. Hughes. Check out the school’s website for all forms. Write your proposal letter beforehand.

**When should I begin my hours?**

It is suggested that you do hours during the summer before your senior year. Remember to write down all that you do on the GP logs, take at least twelve pics, including one of you and the mentor, and fill out paperwork as you go.

Every form you need and more resources are available on the GP website for West.

The link is: <http://wwhsgraduationprojects.weebly.com/>

Ms. Hughes’s email: [hughesr@wcsmail.org](mailto:hughesr@wcsmail.org)