

Culminating Project Overview



Each student shall complete a Culminating Project as a requirement for graduation. Culminating Projects are interest-based and related to the students' career pathway. The project is an opportunity for student's to use academic skills and content knowledge to gain new, deeper levels of understanding.

Students are challenged to **extend their learning outside of class on a project of their choice**. The Project involves thinking analytically, logically, and creatively and integrating experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems. The project requires documentation, a presentation and a reflective summary in which the student discusses the importance of the learning and anticipates how performance, effort, and decisions will be applied in their future.

Project objectives may include activities that are a combination of the following:

- Research - acquiring information using comprehensive resources.
- Product development - developing and building or constructing a prototype or model.
- Service within the community - volunteering, service learning or community service with an organization, club or group.
- An internship or job shadow – a work-based learning experience in an occupational setting where the student pursues learning a new skill or enrichment of a current occupational pursuit.

Projects shall include the following components:

- **The project** – completion of all pre- and post- paperwork. The student develops their project proposal and identifies the objectives they will meet to complete their project. The project may include the components identified above. As project activities are completed, the student must document their time, as well as their project activities.
- **A Reflective Summary** – a summary of the project and its impact on the student. The summary is a reflection of the project and the learning that has occurred.
- **A presentation** – following the presentation outline provided. The presentation usually includes using technology (PPT) or other visual tools to provide an audience with an overview of the project, what was learned by the student, and the direction that the student plans to take in the future.

How Do Students Complete Their Culminating Project?

Students have two options from which they may choose to complete their project:

- 1) Enroll in an *approved course* that has been identified as meeting the requirements of the Culminating Project, or
- 2) Enroll in an *Alternative Learning Experience* class.

Approved Courses

Specific courses are identified at each high school and all of the courses at Tri Tech Skills Center are approved courses. Culminating Project activities are integrated into the courses in a variety of ways, depending on the course. However, each student must do a project, give a presentation and write a reflective summary. All courses require the student to spend a *minimum of 30 hours* on project activities outside of the structured class time. Project proposals are reviewed and approved by the teacher and students must follow the guidelines provided by their teacher and the Kennewick School District.

Please contact your school counselor for the list of approved courses in your building.

Alternative Learning Experience Class

Students who select this process **must register for the Alternative Learning Experience class in their school during the regular registration process**. Project activities are completed during the semester of registration and all project activities must occur during the semester. A certificated staff member is assigned to work with the student and guide them through the project process, but they do not meet on a daily basis. All projects require **prior** approval from the supervising teacher. Students must document *90 hours* of project work. *This process is for the student who is VERY motivated and self directed!*

It is intended that students enrolled in an ALE class complete their project during the first semester of either their junior or senior year. Students who participate in an Alternative Learning Experience class shall follow the state and district requirements and procedures for Alternative Learning Experiences. Student who enroll in an ALE and are not successful will be enrolled in an approved course.

