

Research Project Overview and Guidelines  
Updated 1-23-12

- I. Purpose of Research Project
  - Delve into area of academic interest
  - Explore an area of professional/job-related interest
  - Apply the skills and knowledge students have developed during their Certificate Program courses
  - Possibly use to fulfill student's home school/department senior honors thesis or MMSS senior thesis requirement. The student is responsible for getting permission from the home school/program and making sure the CPU project fulfills the honors thesis requirements.
- II. Scope
  - Autonomous project that is designed and executed by the student independently, with advisory supervision from the professor. Could involve a wide range of activities, from writing a conventional paper, to running an experiment, to conducting another type of integrative work.
  - Original contribution to financial economic analysis, not just a summary of the data or literature.
  - Different from Research Assistant activity in that the student is the driving force, developing ideas and making and meeting deadlines, and the faculty member provides supervision and advice.
  - Conducted during the summer between the student's junior and senior year or during the senior year.
- III. Requirements
  - Student must have taken at least three CPU courses
  - Student must have 3.0 GPA in CPU courses
- IV. Procedures
  - Student develops preliminary ideas for research project, including:
    - overall purpose
    - educational objectives
    - subject matter
  - Student finds faculty advisor. For ideas student can:
    - look at Kellogg faculty websites for their research interests
    - ask CPU certificate academic directors (Prof. Kathleen Hagerty for Financial Economics or Prof. Martin Lariviere for Managerial Analytics) or other CPU faculty to match research idea with Kellogg faculty
    - talk with their department honors thesis advisor for possible projects that would fulfill their honors thesis requirement and then research possible Kellogg faculty
  - Student prepares written proposal, with Kellogg advisor's guidance, that covers the following at a minimum:
    - topic
    - educational objectives
    - intended deliverable
    - list of readings/resources
    - plan for meetings with faculty advisor throughout project period
    - project evaluation criteria
    - project and project deliverable due date
  - Student submits signed (by student and advisor) proposal to CPU office
  - Student completes the research project and final report/deliverable and submits to the faculty advisor and CPU office

- Faculty advisor evaluates the report and returns to student

**Note:** Students may want to explore the possibility of applying for funding for the research project. Here is a link on the WCAS Website about “Funds for Undergraduate Research.”

<http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/honors/funding/index.html#university>

Please note the three links on the top of this Web page: 1) Weinberg College Funds, 2) University-wide Funds, and 3) Department and Program Funds.