

Research Project Overview and Guidelines
February 14, 2008

I. Purpose of Research Project

- Delve into area of academic interest
- Explore an area of professional/job-related interest
- Apply the skills and knowledge developed during their Certificate Program courses
- Possibly use to fulfill 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 in this case, coming up with ideas 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. Jan Eberly for Financial Economics or Prof. Sunil Chopra 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.