

Honors Option Contract Proposal

Student Name

A. Student

Student 901 Number

901*****

DETAILS OF THE PROJECT

Over the semester I will be working to complete a project related to the course of neuroscience. This H-option will consist of three separate parts: an eight-page research paper, a fifteen-minute presentation to my peers about the research I conducted, and an outreach to the community about my topic during the annual Brain Expo. The subject of my paper will be expanding upon a topic that is not taught in-depth during class, drugs. More specifically, how drug-dependent babies and their development are affected by the opioids/opiates taken during their in-utero period. I will research various opioids, as well as opiates, and the damage that is caused from use during pregnancy. This research will look specifically at brain development during the 9-month period of pregnancy. I will conduct the research necessary for this project throughout the semester by using peer-reviewed sources, as well as research I will be able to gather during my capstone experience. I will also have frequent contact with Dr. Faculty Mentor, therefore, I will have him as a source during this research for anything I encounter that I do not fully understand. Towards the end of the term, I will have the opportunity to communicate the research that I have gathered throughout the semester to my classmates who have not been previously lectured on this information. This presentation will challenge me in a way I have not been in previous classes. I will have to condense a lengthy research paper into a concise, engaging presentation that will help my senior-level peers, as well as graduate students, understand the essence of this topic. The project will also give me an opportunity to share this research with the community in the annual Brain Expo. This event will give me the ability to have a platform and speak about the information I have gathered at a table specifically designated to addiction.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROJECT WORK TO LEARNING OUTCOMES & MEANS OF EVALUATION

This project contributes to achieving the Honors College learning outcomes in a variety of ways. I will be able to develop strong critical thinking skills by gathering research, and then be able to apply that research into a well-constructed paper. Furthermore, I will have to develop that paper into a presentation for my peers, as well as the Huntington community for the outreach project at the end of the semester. I will have to articulate clear ideas effectively to Mentor, as well as fellow students and members of the community through my paper and presentations. I will also have to demonstrate leadership skills throughout the semester during the Brain Expo and my presentation to the class. Throughout this honor experience I will be able to develop a more flexible way of thinking that will be required in my professional education, as well as my career path. I also look forward to expanding upon my critical thinking skills and learning to meet the challenges of interdisciplinary learning. Through this project, I will be able to amalgamate fundamental concepts I have learned thus far in my education and expand upon them. I will also have the opportunity to incorporate the experiences I have had in my capstone into this project, as they relate to one another.

MENTORSHIP PRACTICE AND SCHEDULE

Although Dr. Mentor and I do not have formal meeting time throughout the semester, we have discussed his availability and office hours Mon and Wed from 9 am-12 pm. He is also open to making appointments whenever necessary if my schedule does not permit a meeting during his office hours. He has made it clear that he is available as much as necessary for this project. There will be regular communication between us, as I am planning to send a minimum of three rough drafts of the required research paper to him throughout the semester to ensure the quality of research produced is up to his, as well as the honors college, standards. I will also be consulting him about the research worthy of being in my presentation to my peers at the end of the semester. There will be regular contact between email as well, as I want to make certain that this three-part project will be worthy of Honors designation.

SERVICE ELEMENT

I will have the opportunity to share this research I have gathered during the annual Brain Expo on Marshall University's campus. This expo will consist of members from around the community, as well as multiple primary schools from the surrounding area, coming to campus and learning about numerous science-related topics. One of these topics will include addiction, and that is the table that I will be able to speak and demonstrate about my research. This will allow me to inform members of our community about a subject that is very prominent in our area. This event will provide a means of evaluation of my honors-level service work because Dr. Mentor will be able to assess if I am able to articulate the information I have researched over the entire term to people of various age groups and education levels from around the area. The ability to communicate information that one has researched extensively, and condense it into a presentation that people of all different education levels can understand is a critical skill that will follow me through my professional education and even into the career field; therefore, this is an excellent method of evaluation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**FACULTY MENTOR APPROVAL**

Dr. Mentor Approval.png

Supporting Documentation (Optional/As Needed)

Course Number_Syllabus_Semester Year.pdf

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
