Philosophy

The Class I Project, an option open to members of Class I during fourth quarter, is designed to allow students to pursue areas of interest that fall outside the School's formal curriculum. Such projects are an opportunity to explore educational or potential career interests. In addition, the School hopes that projects will further the student's growth in accordance with the School's Mission Statement: inspiring leadership for the public good within a diverse community through intellectual growth, self-respect, curiosity, independence, and a commitment to others.

The Class I Project Committee evaluates all proposals and looks, most broadly, for the extent to which Projects serve to advance the educational development of the student by:

1) Helping students significantly and substantively enlarge their understanding of a particular area;
2) Allowing students to engage in new experiences;
3) Fundamentally deepening skills in previously declared areas of interest and expertise; and
4) Contributing to the school community as a leader and an intellectual.

Project proposals must reflect detailed and well-considered planning. The Committee will not consider any proposal that does not adhere to the detailed guidelines explained in the document.

In the past, projects have included: internships within a variety of professions; creative undertakings; volunteer work; teaching assistant; work in Nobles Development office; and practical work in computers, film, art, crafts, and music. Students are not permitted to earn money—remuneration would, in the opinion of the Committee, compromise the spirit and intent of the educational objectives of the Project. In addition, students may not pursue an internship in a business or organization owned/operated by a family member, or have a family member as an off-campus supervisor.

Credit / Grading Policy

Class I Projects will not begin until the completion of the third academic quarter and may only be undertaken if all graduation requirements have been met, or are in the process of being met, and after the project is approved by the Class I Project Committee. The third quarter grade will become the final grade in a course that is dropped to pursue a Project and will be indicated as such on the official transcript.

Students will receive either a "Pass" or a "Fail" grade, to be determined by the First Class Project Committee at the end of the year. The Faculty at Nobles takes First Class Projects seriously and, as such, will vote to withhold a diploma from any student who receives a "Fail" on a First Class Project. A "Pass" is required for graduation.

The process may seem daunting. The intent is not to overwhelm students, but, rather, to insure that Projects reflect careful consideration and planning. The Faculty supports Projects and holds them to the same high standards as we do our traditional academic courses. There are no automatic approvals.
Application

1. Your application must include a full explanation of your project, the appropriate signatures, as well as a proposed schedule.
   a. Submit a Preliminary Proposal. If approved...
   b. Submit a Final Proposal with the necessary changes for final approval.
      (see deadlines below; forms on Nobles website)

2. A project may replace one or more courses and may also be full-time during the week. If full time, 40 hours per week are required. If part time, 8 hours per week on the project are required for every course dropped. The estimated time does not include travel time; students should be mindful of choosing projects that can be done locally. The Committee encourages students to stay connected with Nobles during the course of their project. When students are on School grounds, they must adhere to all rules and regulations, including the dress code.

3. You may not drop a course that you are taking to satisfy a diploma requirement in science, performing or visual arts, history, foreign language, or mathematics. Dropping an Advanced Placement course to pursue a project is discouraged unless there are compelling reasons to do so. Those reasons must be articulated in the proposal and specifically approved by the Class I Project Committee.

4. A project cannot be used to fulfill Community Service hours.

5. All academic obligations must be met prior to the start of the project and the Committee may consult advisors and college counselors as to whether a class may be dropped. No student with a grade of "incomplete" or "no credit" in any course may begin a project. Any student earning a C or below in a course at the end of the third quarter may not drop that course in order to undertake a project.

6. Your final grade for the course(s) that you drop will be the third quarter grade. This is the final grade that will show up on your transcript.

7. A senior who is subject to any disciplinary action may not participate in a project.

8. Incomplete applications cannot and will not be approved. However, during the application process the Committee may ask a student to submit additional information and/or to alter the project proposal so that it meets the standards set forth by the committee.

9. The School cannot alter its financial arrangements with a student who chooses to pursue a project in lieu of one or more courses. There can be no tuition rebate or assumption of expense related to a project.

Deadlines

January 27: Preliminary Project Proposals due in Mr.Herring’s office (Shattuck 207). This includes a project Description, Mentor name, Off Campus Supervisor Information (if applicable) plus a schedule and course drop requests.

Jan. 29-Feb 14: Committee Review: goal is to offer feedback to students for improvement. Committee members will give feedback to students before the final proposal deadline.

February 19: Final Project Proposals due (all signatures, completed description, final reading list -- if required-- and schedule); projects are reviewed and passed on a rolling basis. Projects that do not meet the committee’s standards will not be passed.

March 24: Projects begin

May 21: Projects end
May 23: Mentor/ Supervisor Evaluations due
May 27: Class I Project Night