

INDIVIDUALIZED SCHOLARLY EXPERIENCE

Syllabus Template for RS (Research and Scholarship Intensive) Designation

Course Schedule

You should commit to meeting with the student for a minimum of once a week for 30 minutes. This time should be spent reviewing the student’s research journal, answering questions, planning for the next week, and putting their work on the project into a scholarly context. You should also identify events, like lab meetings, and associated activities, assignments, readings, and conferences, presentations, and publication deadlines into the schedule.

	Activity	Assignments and Readings
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		
Week 5		
Week 6		
Week 7		
Week 8		
Week 9		
Week 10		
Week 11		
Week 12		
Week 13		
Week 14		
Week 15		
Week 16		

Grading and Evaluation

Individualized Scholarly Experiences may be graded traditionally, or by using the S/U option. Please use this section to outline the expectations for the student. Faculty may choose to use the Students as Scholars Rubric to grade the student’s work in the project, or may use another method. It’s important to include the value of assignments, required meetings, research time, and other variables in this grade. Please note for the student the difference between “good results” (which are hard to require in authentic projects) and satisfactory progress and effort.

EXAMPLE TEXT FOR S/U GRADING:

“The grading for this course is S/U... Research necessarily involves trying to do something new, and failure to achieve the desired goal does not, by itself, constitute unsatisfactory performance. In order to receive a grade of S, the student must have worked with care and accuracy, used proper scientific methodology in planning experiments and recording and analyzing data, consulted the scientific literature as required, and taken initiative to move the research forward. Satisfactory performance also requires adherence to proper professional standards of laboratory safety and ethics in performing the research, maintenance of good records via a ES laboratory notebook and/or electronic files as discussed with the faculty advisor, and the ability to work with others in a collegial manner.”

EXAMPLE TEXT FOR STANDARD GRADING:

Your research project will be graded using the following elements:

- Research journal: 15 points
- Participation in research team meetings, including taking the lead in at least one meeting: 25 points
- Active participation and satisfactory progress towards project goal: 35 points
- Presentation of final poster at symposium: 25 points (and poster must be presented to earn a passing grade)

Grading:

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- To earn an A, students need to earn over 90 points
- To earn a B, students need to earn over 80 points
- To earn a C, students need to earn over 70 points.
- Less than 70 points but successful presentation of poster will earn a D
- Less than 60 points or failure to complete project and present poster will earn an F.

EXAMPLE TEXT FOR STANDARD OR S/U GRADING:

Student Responsibilities:

- Complete 144 hours of independent research over the course of the semester (approximately 9 hours/week).
- Participate in monthly group meetings as requested.
- Participate in end of the semester lab clean-up. Time to be arranged.
- Keep a neat and organized lab notebook.
- Publicly present your work in a manner to be determined in conjunction with instructor (journal article submission, college Undergraduate Research Symposium, etc).

Evaluation includes lab performance, attendance, notebook, final report, and/or presentation. Grades are awarded on the following relative scale of excellent (A), good (B), fair (C), poor (D) OR Satisfactory(S)/Unsatisfactory(U). If this course is repeated, the performance expectation is raised for each subsequent semester.

Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ETHICAL CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

It's important that you stress the ethical work done by professionals done in your field. Please feel free to modify or replace the following sample language, but do include a statement on your syllabus. You can review Mason's Office of Academic Integrity website (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>). Additional measures around the responsible conduct of research may be required for your project, including training in Human Subjects in Research or Animal Care and Use. Please refer to the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance for additional information (<http://oria.gmu.edu/ethical-conduct-of-research/>), and ask OSCAR about additional resources.

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>) with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular task, ask for clarification.

To avoid plagiarism (using the words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit) use accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. In this project, I expect for you to use **MLA, APA, CBE** format. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

In research and creative projects, attribution of the work is very important. You should not submit any work being conducted to a conference, presentation, display, or other venue without having a conversation with your faculty mentor about authorship and the appropriateness of sharing the project.

DIVERSITY

George Mason University promotes a living, learning, and research environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study, and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion,

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age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

PRIVACY

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this project. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information. I will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address.