

The Culminating Project is a graduation requirement for Washington State graduates.

Bellingham School District students complete Culminating Projects as part of their graduation requirements. They must select volunteer community advisors who specialize in the topic of their Culminating Projects to guide, encourage, assist, and support them in planning and developing meaningful Culminating Projects.

What is the Culminating Project?

The project is designed to help a student develop or improve a skill or performance; design or create a product, service, system or event; and investigate a career to better prepare him/her for further studies or employment after high school.

Students are encouraged to identify projects that match passions or interests, demonstrate stretches in their learning and connect to the community. Students may begin developing proposals in high school courses during the spring of their junior years. Students will be supported in all components of the Culminating Project as part of their high school curriculum.

If you have not been approached by a student, but want to volunteer your expertise to students searching for a community advisor, please contact the Culminating Project Coordinator at your student's high school.

READY

for

*College, Career,
Citizenship*



Bellingham School District #501
1306 Dupont Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-3118



The Culminating Project graduation requirement involves the following five components:

1 Proposal

A plan that states the goals and rationale for the project with particular emphasis on the benefit of the project to self and community will be submitted and approved.

2 Scholarly Paper

Research to support the project, including an essential research question and at least five reliable sources, will be written in the district's approved format.

3 Portfolio

All stages of the project with a log of hours will be creatively documented in a portfolio format.

4 Written Reflection

A reflection paper with a minimum of 500 words will be submitted upon completion of the project.

5 Presentation

Portfolios and projects will be presented to a panel of educators and community members for evaluation.

By completing the Culminating Project graduation requirement, students will

- Demonstrate and document a significant learning stretch beyond the classroom experience;
- Engage in work related to a personal interest or passion;
- Connect/benefit the community through the work of a project;
- Complete a quality process, product or performance;
- Experience personal growth and reflection in preparation for the future.

What is the time commitment for becoming a Culminating Project community advisor?

The amount of contact and time commitment will depend upon the scope of the student's project. However, it is recommended that a student meet with his/her community advisor at least three times during the project. The District will schedule optional one-hour training meetings that community advisors are encouraged to attend once. The latest schedule for these sessions is available online at www.bham.wednet.edu/learning/culminating-project/index.htm.

What are the qualifications for community advisors?

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- May be a relative if that individual has sufficient experience and expertise, but students are highly encouraged to look beyond relatives and find professionals in the field of interest
- May not be a member of the residing school faculty
- Must have knowledge or experience in student's chosen area of interest
- Must complete an advisor acceptance form, which includes information for a criminal background screening by Securint, Inc. Families may waive this screening for their student's community advisor by completing a waiver.

How do I become a community advisor?

If a student has approached you about becoming a community advisor and you have agreed to do so, you will be asked to supply information in order to be screened for a criminal background check through Securint Inc. For information about this screening, visit www.securint.com. Community advisors must be approved before working with the student.

Benefits of becoming a community advisor:

- Share your expertise with a student in our community
- Learn more about Bellingham schools and our students
- Help a student master skills for further studies and employment after high school
- Help shape the future of our community's graduates

