



Oregon Institute of Technology

Industry Supporters: Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does a company initiate the process of supporting a senior project?

- a. Identify non-critical-path projects within your company or organization, and employees who are willing to act as project mentors with student teams.
- b. Submit the Industry-Supported Senior Project Proposal Form by August 28. Contact the Office of Strategic Partnerships with any questions:

Brittany Miles
Industry Outreach Coordinator
Office of Strategic Partnerships
(503) 821-1288 office
(562) 419-4416 cell
Brittany.miles@oit.edu

2. How does a submitted project get selected?

Faculty who are teaching senior project courses will review project descriptions and determine if a proposal is appropriate to satisfy the academic requirements. Students then have the choice of selecting an industry-supported senior project or developing a project on their own. Industry will be notified three weeks into fall term if their project has been selected.

3. How will companies be notified if their project was selected by students?

Oregon Tech will communicate with companies regarding the selection of their project proposal no later than October 25, 2013. Students will be responsible for contacting their company mentor directly.

4. What will Oregon Tech do with the \$2,500 donation?

Senior Projects are supported with a donation of \$2,500 per project unless the project requires additional support in terms of equipment, services, and supplies. Students working on Industry-Supported Senior Projects will have a not-to-exceed-budget of \$1,800 which can cover project costs for materials, travel, and equipment associated with the Senior Project. \$700 of this contribution will go towards student-led senior projects and basic administrative costs associated with the program.

5. Can students receive stipend payments for their labor on the Senior Project?

No. Seniors may be reimbursed for allowable Industry-Supported Senior Project costs and expenses.

Allowable costs and expenses are:

- Non-capital equipment
- Consumable materials and supplies
- Travel
- Conference fees
- Contest entry fees

6. What kind of time commitment does Oregon Tech expect from industry supporters?

This will vary. Many companies assign one person from their company to act as a mentor to the senior student or student team. Normally, mentors will advise students as they write the scope of work and timeline. Industry mentors check in throughout the course of the project about once every month.

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7. What should supporting companies expect as a result of their donation?

This program is based on a donation to support student projects. Consequently, there are no contractual deliverables associated with project support but companies will have access to the results of the project (e.g., senior project report, presentations, etc). Specifically, as part of the senior project the company will have access to:

- Student-designed scope of work, timeline, and budget
- Final written report on the project subject matter
- Presentation of the senior project. Students share senior project at Oregon Tech's annual public symposium. Industry supporters and community members are invited to attend.

8. If a company is involved, what is the senior project faculty responsible for?

The faculty advisor is responsible for approving viable industry proposals and evaluating the academic performance of the student(s) based on the overall quality of the work product. The faculty is also responsible for reviewing project expenditures. Once the project is underway, communication about the project will be between the students and the company mentor.

9. Can a company loan equipment as part of a supported project?

Yes, please contact Oregon Tech's Office of Strategic Partnerships to complete an equipment loan agreement.

10. Can a company donate raw materials to a senior project?

Yes, please contact Oregon Tech's Office of Strategic Partnerships to complete a donation form.

11. Can a company that is supporting a project employ a student to work on that project?

No. The industry support of a senior project is a donation. There is no contractual obligation on the part of the student or university. If you would like to hire a student to work for your company please refer to Oregon Tech's career services site: <http://www.oit.edu/current-students/career-services/employers>. It is also possible that seniors may be employed with a company while conducting a senior project that is supported by their company, but that constitutes an employment relationship, and is not part of the Industry-Supported Senior Project Program.

12. Can industry sponsors be guaranteed that proprietary information, given to students and faculty to conduct the senior project, remains proprietary?

Yes. Students and faculty may be asked to sign confidentiality agreements, if necessary. It is preferable to minimize the amount of confidential information utilized in senior projects since senior projects should be capable of being publically disseminated (e.g., senior project symposium, project reports, etc). Oregon Tech's Office of Innovation and Technology Transfer and Office of Strategic Partnerships and can discuss the appropriate agreements and protections, if necessary. <http://www.oit.edu/faculty-staff/oitt>

13. What happens if intellectual property (IP) results from the senior project?

In general, Oregon Institute of Technology does not assert ownership over intellectual property (IP) exclusively developed by students who are not university employees, especially if the IP is developed as part of a for credit class. Since under this program students will be enrolled in a senior project class and will be unpaid, IP exclusively conceived or first reduced to practice by the students will normally be owned by the students except in cases where students make extensive use of university



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resources (IMD 6.215). Consequently, students may elect to assign their IP to an industry sponsor but such agreements are separate and Oregon Tech is not a party to the agreement.

Please refer to Oregon Tech's Office of Innovation and Technology Transfer and review the IP guidelines for students, faculty and industry partners: <http://www.oit.edu/faculty-staff/oitt>

14. Who owns the project?

In general, student work is owned by the student (e.g., senior project report, etc). However, since donated funds will normally be used under this program, the tangible property (e.g., physical prototypes, hardware devices, etc) will be owned by Oregon Tech.

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