

Berkeley Experiential Senior Transition (BEST)

Teachers: Skeels/Dopman

Course Description: In this college preparatory elective, students will prepare for the next steps after graduation including the college/post-secondary enrollment process, studying independent living skills, and developing a research project with a field study component on a topic of personal interest related to community service professions.

Skill Objectives and Outcomes: Independent living skills such as goal setting, budgeting, personal healthy living, and managing work-place relationships and responsibilities; facility with the college application process; project-based in-depth research and presentation related to career goals in a specific area of interest, research and analytical writing skills to produce a complex, comprehensive research paper.

Course Content:

- Post high school planning and the College Process
- Financial Planning and Post-High School Education
- Life Skills for Independent Living and Work
- Senior Project Planning
- Senior Project Research and Annotated Bibliography
- Field Research (Internships, etc.)
- Documentation and Reflection
- Project Presentations – The Senior Exhibition

Course Structure: Class will meet **Tuesday, Thursday** and **Friday** each week. Students will be released 6th period to work on the field study component of the senior project two days a week – **Monday** and **Wednesday**– throughout the fall & spring semesters. **NOTE:** If students cannot find a field study placement during the Monday/Wednesday time, they must find one after school. *Students who do not have an internship in the Monday/Wednesday time period will meet in H202 or H204 to do research, develop an annotated bibliography, write reflections, and document the field research component of the project.* Students will have established their field research experience and defined their senior projects by **Friday, October 5**.

Grades/Credit: Students will receive points for each major assignment, with heavy emphasis on the project plan, research evidence and final project presentations. In addition, 20% of their grades will be based on classwork and participation.

Fall Projects:

Career Field Research: 10%
 5-Year Plan: 20%
 Project Proposal: 20%
 Reflective Journal: 20%
 Annotated Sources: 10%
 Portfolio Management: 20%

Spring Projects:

Research Paper and Bibliography: 30%
 Senior Journal: 10%
 Reflective Essay: 10%
 Senior Project Documentation: 20%
 Senior Project Presentation: 30%
 Thank You Letters: 10%

Late Policy: Major Assignments will be downgraded 10% for each day of lateness and will not be accepted after **three** days without an excused absence. Extensions for excused absences must be arranged with the teacher immediately upon return.

Materials:

- Reflective journal and writing utensil
- Folder or binder for readings and assignments
- Senior Portfolio (kept in H202/H204 at all times)