



Project Center Mission, Values and Expectations

Mission

The Seattle University Project Center is dedicated to providing an environment that fosters the systematic pursuit of academic excellence and applied learning, ensuring our student teams not only apply their technical knowledge, but that they also practice and strengthen professional skills in an environment that fosters a culture of inclusive excellence.

Values

Care

We put the good of students first.

The Project Center, design coordinators, faculty advisors, and departmental staff will be committed to providing a meaningful, documented learning experience for all students that incorporates appropriate industry standards and is based on knowledge and skills acquired in earlier coursework.

Diversity

We celebrate educational excellence achieved through diversity.

The Project Center is committed to sustaining a collaborative and inclusive environment that values diversity and equity in opportunity and outcomes. We ask for your help in fostering a welcoming and open environment, treating others with respect, and collaborating toward a shared vision. Please refer to the Faculty Advisor Roles and Responsibilities, [Student Code of Conduct](#) and to the [Office for Diversity and Inclusion](#) for more information.

Faith

We treasure our Jesuit Catholic ethos and the enrichment from many faiths of our university community.

Project Center students are encouraged to grow personally and spiritually, testing their values, developing a sense of responsibility for themselves and their community, and learning about making ethical choices in their lives. They learn to balance self-reliance with interdependence, knowledge with spirituality, and mind with heart.

Justice

We foster a concern for justice and the competence to promote it.

Seattle University is a mission-driven university and the Project Center supports this mission by ensuring sponsors are closely aligned with our mission, vision, and values. Through guidance provided by faculty advisors and design coordinators, students should gain the ability to recognize ethical responsibilities in professional situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of STEM solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts. If you believe a sponsor, faculty member, or student is conducting themselves in an unethical manner, please contact the Project Center.

Leadership

We seek to develop responsible leaders committed to the common good.

The Project Center, design coordinators, and faculty advisors will help our students become inspired team members and leaders who know themselves, lead from an ethical compass, mobilize others around a shared vision, and are empowered for a more just and humane world.

Expectations

The Project Center is comprised of students and faculty from multiple departments in the College of Science and Engineering. These guidelines are meant to create universal methodologies across all project teams in all departments.

Design coordinators and faculty advisors will ensure students:

- Develop their ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies.
- Practice the ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use judgment to draw conclusions.
- Rotate through both technical and management roles on their project team so they gain experience in all areas of the project.

Design coordinators and faculty advisors are committed to providing meaningful feedback and learning opportunities to students:

- Ensure the ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences by:
 - Providing multiple opportunities for students to present their projects to their peers and professionals and provide them with feedback to help them continuously improve presentations
 - Providing at least one opportunity for students to be interviewed by professionals in industry in order to ensure they can convey the idea of their project to an outside audience.
 - Ensuring students present their final project results to their sponsor at a venue other than Projects Day.
 - Requiring every student to present a portion of the project and be available to answer questions from the audience at Projects Day.
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Design coordinators and faculty advisors will be active partners in ensuring student learning is part of the project and that Sponsor Liaisons are active in and satisfied with the project.

- Faculty advisors will interact with Sponsor Liaisons throughout the year to ensure the project is meeting their expectations and that the Sponsor Liaisons continue to understand that this is a learning experience for the students
- Faculty advisors and design coordinators will review any outputs (report, posters, presentations) produced by the students prior to sending it to the sponsors

If issues arise, we all commit to interfacing with the sponsor and/or the Project Center to resolve them. Issues include but are not limited to:

- Active parties (students, Sponsor, faculty advisor) are not participating in the project
- Team dynamic issues
- Shift of focus away from student learning to successful product/outcome
- Active parties experience or witness bias, discrimination, or harassment