

Faculty Handout

Thank you for mentoring a BDP student! Our undergraduate students gain an invaluable introduction to the work of their chosen field through a creative project. We appreciate the work you do with these students, who may be experiencing the responsibilities of a creative project for the first time. Our office is available to address any questions or concerns you may have throughout the semester. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

BDP Main Line: (512) 232-7564

Larissa Noake, Director: larissa.noake@austin.utexas.edu

For additional information and resources, please visit our Faculty Mentor Handbook on the [BDP website](#).

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY FACULTY MENTOR ROLES EXPLAINED

Both Primary and Secondary Mentors. All academic requirements are at the discretion of the Primary Faculty Mentor. Secondary Faculty Mentors are not required for every creative project, but may be applicable based on student/project needs. The BDPs hope that both the Primary Mentor and Secondary Mentor (if applicable) will contribute to the student's experience in the following ways.

- Meet with student periodically throughout the semester or arrange regular email contact.
- Help student integrate the creative project with issues, skills, and concepts from coursework.
- Encourage student to make connections among the creative project, the student's Digital Arts & Media BDP, and methodologies, controversies, and trends related to the student's discipline.

Primary Faculty Mentor

- The Primary Mentor should be the student's main point of contact and will assign the grade for the course. You may ask the student to share feedback offered by the Secondary Mentor (if applicable), and you may choose to consult with the Secondary Mentor if you would like feedback on the student's performance, to inform the grade.
- (PRIMARY MENTOR ONLY) Assign final grade or credit. This responsibility may vary depending on the course number and departmental requirements.

Secondary Faculty Mentor

- The role of the optional Secondary Faculty Mentor is to help the student gain feedback from a second disciplinary perspective. The Secondary Mentor does not assign the grade, but you may want to suggest improvements to the student's plan for the project, or offer feedback that the Primary Mentor could consider when assigning the final grade.

SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENT EXPLANATIONS

IMPORTANT: Academic requirements are generally at the discretion of the Primary Faculty Mentor, though the BDP office may suggest or request changes if adjustments are needed for us to be able to approve the student's Connecting Experience. The most common reasons we ask for changes to the academic requirements are that the amount of work required of the student does not appear to be sufficient for three hours of credit, or that the link between the work the student is doing and the student's specific BDP topic needs to be stronger. With the exception of the Reflection Essay, which is required of all students completing a Connecting Experience, the following assignments are suggestions only, and many other types of assignments are frequently given for Connecting Experiences, in addition to these.

- **Journals/Blog Entries.** You might ask the student to set up a blog or provide regular email updates, reflecting on meaningful connections, revelations, and overall learning during the project.
- **Project Demo.** You might ask the student to demonstrate the results of the creative project work at the annual BDP Poster Session in April. For more information about the BDP Poster Session, please contact Larissa Noake at larissa.noake@austin.utexas.edu, or (512) 232-7586.
- **Reflection Essay.** The BDP office requires every student to write a 3-5 pg. Reflection Essay at the conclusion of the Connecting Experience. The Reflection Essay is due on the last class day of the semester. The student will be responsible for submitting a copy to the BDP office and the Faculty Mentor. The Reflection Essay prompt can be found on our website under "Quick Links and Forms."