

DES 546 Independent Study Proposal

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Table of Contents

- I. Summary
- II. Purpose
- III. Projects
- IV. Deliverables
- V. Potential Challenges
- VI. Proposal
- VII. Timeline
 - a. Semester Goals
 - b. Monthly Goals
 - c. Weekly Goals
- VIII. Contact

I. Summary

I am writing you to explain the specific projects that will be completed during my AmeriCorps service year as they apply to a three-credit Interdisciplinary Design independent study. I will be an AmeriCorps member serving at Iowa State University 4-H Extension and Outreach in the Arts, Communication, and Design department until the end of August. This requires serving approximately 10-20 hours a week in order to reach 900 hours by the end of my term.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this service year is to work with the 4-H Communication, Arts, and Design Specialist to carry out hands-on educational programming for youth across the state of Iowa that highlight the arts and communication disciplines. As a senior in the Interdisciplinary Design program at Iowa State minoring in Technical Communication and very involved with ISU Theatre on campus, I will be utilizing my classwork, projects, and theatrical experiences in this independent and innovative position.

III. Projects

The projects I will be completing can be divided into their respective 4-H programs:

Communication and Arts

- » Plan and host various workshops and informational sessions for 4-H retreats
- » Write monthly summaries of projects and community involvement
- » Attend and take notes for quarterly Arts, Communication, and Design statewide programming team meetings and additional meetings and trainings
- » Collect information on volunteers managed and youth participation

Camera Corps

- » Design a new data organization method for the Camera Corps program to keep track of monthly photography submissions, themes, and juror feedback
- » Send written critiques to participants monthly as needed (approx. 40-80 photography submissions per month)
- » Plan and lead statewide Camera Corps photography workshops across the state of Iowa
- » Reach out to potential jurors and sponsors for each month
- » Design a Certificate program to encourage consistent participation month to month
- » Determine how photographs will be distributed and displayed in different counties

Performing Arts Passport

- » Plan and establish a new statewide 4-H Youth Performing Arts Program
- » Collaborate with ISU Theater and ISU Extension to implement this program
- » Create the first 4-H weeklong summer theater camp to take place on ISU campus in the summer of 2019
- » Pitch the camp and hire ISU student interns to lead the workshops in the camp
- » Design a portfolio and pitch the program for a panel of judges in the KCACTF Midwest theater festival at the end of January

4-H Reporters

- » Help promote and plan the State Fair Reporters program

FLEX Virtual Reality/3D Printing Technologies

- » Explore virtual reality applications that can be used as educational design tools
- » Set up and run the FLEX Virtual Reality headset program for workshops as needed

Design Camp

- » Help plan the week-long summer camp in the College of Design

IV. Deliverables

I will have a variety of materials and reports from the process and completion of these projects for you to review. These could include:

- » A portfolio of planning documents, presentation slides, and Camera Corps e-mail critiques to demonstrate my thought processes and resulting communications
- » A time log for weekly hours worked, with descriptions of projects and tasks completed
- » Written reflections and progress reports
- » A photography journal/blog describing the experiences, research, and planning process of these projects and workshops
- » Copies of designed documents

V. Potential Challenges

I will need to quickly learn the rules for implementing changes to current programs and establishing new ones since both 4-H and the Iowa State Extension have very specific branding and program requirements. These projects are also all happening simultaneously and are equally important for the students involved. It will require organization, time management, and consistent communication across disciplines and across the state. This experience will certainly be a challenge, and I think it will also be an incredible learning experience.

VI. Proposal

I would like to report the process work and research completed along with the results of my work for independent study credit towards a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Design. I believe that this internship is essential to my future career goals as a multi-disciplinary communicator and will be the perfect last-semester opportunity for me to apply what I've been learning in this unique program across the State of Iowa.

It will also be the perfect opportunity for me to share the Interdisciplinary Design program with the community and potential future students, as this program and the opportunities I've gained from it are very important to me.

VII. Independent Study Timeline

Semester Goals

Through a combination of interdisciplinary research, service-learning experiences, and program development planning, I will assess current 4-H Arts, Communication, and Design Youth Programs and propose new methods of engagement and data organization design.

I will submit a proposal for each month's focus based on research conducted throughout the month. These will be organized into a final portfolio at the end of the semester with the results of implementing the proposals.

Monthly Goals

January: Performing Arts and 4-H History

February: Camera Corps Data Organization Design

March: Social Media/Technology Engagement

April: Workshops/Summer Camps

May: Final Portfolio

Weekly Goals

Week 1: 1/14- Semester Planning/Proposal

Goals: Develop semester schedule that will be a point of reference at the weekly check-in meetings for the independent study.

Approach: Research

Deliverables: Timeline Document, Independent Study Proposal Form

Events: CPR Training 1/17, Workshop 1/18, CoD Meeting 1/18

Week 2: 1/21- KCACTF

Goals: Attend Workshops and the Leadership in the Arts Intensive to propose and get feedback on summer camp ideas and new performing arts engagement ideas.

Approach: Workshops

Deliverables: Notes from Workshops

Events: KCACTF 1/20-1/26

Week 3: 1/28- Performing Arts Passport Proposal, 4- H History

Goals: Gain a better understanding of the structure and history of 4-H, focusing on Arts, Communication, and Design programs.

Approach: Online research

Deliverables: **Performing Arts Passport Proposal**

Events: TBD

Week 4: 2/4- What's Working Elsewhere?

Goals: Research other arts, communication, and design outreach programs currently happening around the US.

Approach: Online research

Deliverables: List of programs, notes

Events: TBD

Week 5: 2/11- Accessibility

Goals: Research current accessibility issues for remote arts programs and feedback from Camera Corps participants

Approach: Online research, podcasts, Camera Corps theme feedback

Deliverables: TBD

Events: TBD

Week 6: 2/18- Data Organization

Goals: Explore different ways of organizing data that will be effective as the program continues to grow.

Approach: Research CMSs, JotForm pros/con compared to other form systems

Deliverables: TBD

Events: TBD

Week 7: 2/25- Camera Corps Proposal

Goals: Propose new data organization method.

Approach: TBD

Deliverables: **Proposal:** TBD

Events: TBD

Week 8: 3/4 - Social Media/Website Integration

Goals: Research how youth and their parents are using social media and navigating websites.

Approach: online research, PSYCH 386 textbooks, podcasts

Deliverables: TBD

Events: TBD

Week 9: 3/11 - Portable Technology as a Design Tool

Goals: Explore the potential uses of portable technology (cell phones, tablets) for youth design projects/programs

Approach: App research, online research, trying various apps

Deliverables: App reviews

Events: Camera Corps Workshop 3/13

Week 10: 3/18 - Spring Break

Week 11: 3/25 - Virtual Reality as a Design Tool

Goals: Explore the potential uses of virtual reality for youth design projects/programs

Approach: Research vr applications, try applications through vr headset

Deliverables: VR app reviews

Events: TBD

Week 12: 4/1 - Social Media and Technology Engagement Proposal

Goals: Propose a social media engagement plan including potential programs using portable technology and virtual reality.

Approach: TBD

Deliverables: Proposal: TBD

Events: TBD

Week 13: 4/8- Crafting Memorable Workshops

Goals: Research what makes a short workshop impactful for youth

Approach: online research

Deliverables: TBD

Events: TBD

Week 14: 4/15- Icebreakers, Games, and Introductions

Goals: Research what makes icebreakers, games, and introductions effectively engaging for different types of youth

Approach: Workshop leader interviews, online research

Deliverables: notes from interviews

Events: TBD

Week 15: 4/22 - Effective Leadership Training

Goals: Research what volunteer leaders need and don't need to know before leading workshops.

Approach: Online research

Deliverables: TBD

Events: TBD

Week 16: 4/29- Workshops/Camps Training Toolkit Proposal

Goals: Propose a workshop/summer camp toolkit for volunteer leaders and interns.

Approach: TBD

Deliverables: Proposal

Events: TBD

Week 17: 5/6- Final Portfolio

Goals: Present final designed document including proposals, notes from the semester, and the results of implementing the proposals.

Approach: TBD

Deliverables: Portfolio

Events: TBD

VIII. Contact

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