

Planning for Senior Project IT461

In which quarter should I take my Senior Project?

Putting off your Senior Project until the Spring quarter of your last year at CalPoly is not recommended. What if you fall behind schedule? Are you going to delay your graduation because you couldn't finish your project? It is recommended that you take your senior project either on Spring of junior year or Fall of senior year. Due to intensity of workload it is strongly recommended not to take Senior Project and IT407 simultaneously.

What should I do for my senior project?

Your Senior Project is the culmination of your undergraduate coursework in Industrial Technology. The Project will differ in many ways from those done in other courses in the sense that you will not be told what to do. Particular projects will not be assigned. The project you choose should be something that excites you. The best way to insure success in this course is to choose a topic that genuinely interests you. This is a writing intensive course.

Most students start thinking about their projects the first week of the quarter they take IT 461. THIS IS TOO LATE. You've probably been thinking about your senior project for at least a quarter before you officially begin.

You may not realize this, but you have a lot of sources for ideas at your disposal:

- **Industry-Based Projects:** This is the most valuable and highly recommended source of ideas for senior projects: There are two approaches for soliciting ideas:
 - 1) **Student Contact with Companies:** Often project ideas come from the projects you work on during your internship or working as a regular employee in a company. However, work that you are doing for an employer cannot be your senior project.
 - 2) **Professor Contact with Companies:** Some IT professors are in contact with major employers such as Boeing for acquiring ideas for senior projects. These ideas will be emailed to all IT students before the quarter begins.
- **Professors:** Sometimes professors have a few projects kicking around that they would be more than willing to discuss with you. Often times students build a device or instrument for our laboratory courses. Contact individual faculty if you are interested.
- **Examining Previous Senior Projects:** Senior projects are archived in microfiche format at the library. Sometimes new idea sparks from an older idea. Moreover, we recommend you to examine the achieve before the quarter begins just to get a sense about what is the expectation.
- **Research-oriented projects** are also a possibility.

Do not put off topic selection until the last minute!!!