Overview of the three-phase approach

Phase 1: Before the GRP	Phase 2: During the GRP	Phase 3: After the GRP
Help students choose research topics	Provide continuous feedback on research	Celebrate accomplishments, guide next steps
Guide research process, literature review, methodology	Promote interdisciplinary collaboration	Encourage leveraging GRP in job search or grad school applications
Set expectations for communication and deadlines	Monitor progress, address issues or roadblocks	Maintain alumni connections, support ongoing professional development
Advise on graduate school selection, applications, requirements	Support career and graduate school preparation	
Assist with job applications, interviews, opportunities		
Encourage skill development, language proficiency, job fairs, networking		

Common Structure of a Senior Undergraduate Thesis

I. Introduction
A. Background Information
B. Thesis Statement
II. Literature Review
A. Overview of Relevant Research
B. Analysis of Research
III. Methodology
A. Research Design
B. Data Collection/ Material and Analysis
IV. Results and Discussion
A. Presentation of Findings
B. Interpretation of Results
C. Counterarguments
V. Conclusion
A. Summary of Findings
B. Implications for Future Research
VI. References

Source: The Harvard Writing Center

Choosing a Topic

Encourage students to select a topic that aligns with their academic interests and career aspirations. Ensure the topic is focused and researchable within the given time frame. Help students refine their research question or hypothesis.

Conducting a Literature Review

- Guide students on how to search for relevant literature, using library resources and online databases.
- Teach them how to critically analyze and synthesize existing research.
- Assist with identifying gaps in the literature that their research project can address.
Example of structure of a Literature Review:
Introduction
- Briefly introduce the research topic and its significance
- State the objectives of the literature review
- Provide an overview of the organization of the review
Conceptual framework (optional)
- Present the key theories or concepts that underpin your research topic
- Explain how these theories or concepts inform your study
Review of the literature
- Organize the literature review into themes or categories relevant to your research topic
- Summarize and critically analyze each study, highlighting its purpose, methodology, findings, and limitations
- Compare and contrast the different studies, identifying areas of agreement and disagreement

Conducting a Literature Review (cont)

- Note any trends or patterns in the literature, such as shifts in focus or emerging areas of interest
Identification of gaps and research opportunities
- Highlight gaps in the literature where further research is needed
- Discuss how your research aims to address these gaps or contribute to the existing body of knowledge
Conclusion
- Summarize the main findings of the literature review
- Reiterate the significance of the research topic and the need for further investigation
- Briefly describe how your study will build upon the literature reviewed

Notes: When writing a literature review, keep these tips in mind:
- Use a wide range of sources, including books, journal articles, conference papers, and online resources
- Ensure your sources are relevant, recent, and from reputable sources
- Maintain a critical and analytical approach, rather than merely summarizing the literature
- Use clear and concise language, with appropriate citations and referencing

Developing a Methodology

Help students choose an appropriate research design and methodology for their project. Discuss data collection techniques, such as surveys, interviews, or experiments, as well as ethical considerations. Provide guidance on data analysis methods and tools.

Writing the GRP

Offer advice on structuring the Graduation Research Project (GRP), including sections such as Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. Encourage students to develop clear, concise, and well-organized writing. Assist with proper citation and formatting according to the required style guide.

Time Management and Project Planning

Help students create a realistic timeline for their research project, including milestones and deadlines. Encourage regular progress check-ins and adjustments to the project plan as needed. Discuss strategies for managing stress and maintaining motivation throughout the project.

Presentation and Defense

Guide students on how to prepare an effective presentation of their research findings. Provide tips for handling questions and addressing feedback during the GRP defense. Encourage students to practice their presentation skills and seek feedback from peers and mentors.

Supervising, Mentoring, and Advising

Supervising emphasizes overseeing students' academic progress, providing guidance on various aspects of their studies, and ensuring adherence to academic policies.

Advising involves helping students explore their interests and goals, introducing them to academic resources, and assisting them in developing academic plans.

Mentoring fosters personal connections, sharing insights from personal experiences, and guiding students in developing personal and professional skills.

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