

Information for Sponsors of Academic Projects

Any entity that is interested in sponsoring an undergraduate academic project should complete the form, *Academic Project Proposal – Company Sponsored*, in collaboration with an NDSU faculty member prior to the start of the semester for approval as coursework. On the form the Sponsor will indicate whether or not it desires to own the resultant intellectual property (IP) from the performance of the project.

The project should be significantly scoped to provide the students with a project that can be accomplished within the course sequence (whether one semester or multi-semester). Sponsor will not be able to select ownership of IP for any project that will extend beyond the course sequence since multiple teams of student will be necessary for the completion of the project.

If project is approved by NDSU, the Sponsor will pay a fee plus any costs (or provision) of any significant materials and supplies necessary for the performance of the project. Any materials, documents, records, data or equipment provided by Sponsor for the project can be returned to Sponsor upon request at the conclusion of the project.

Elect Ownership. If a Sponsor elects to own all IP rights related to a specific project, students that select that project to complete as coursework will provide Sponsor with an assignment of rights. The Sponsor will be entitled to a copy of all drawings, specs, analysis, presentations and other reports or documents prepared by the student participants; any actual prototype(s) that is developed in the performance of the project; and all IP rights that are developed in the performance of the project.

Decline Ownership. If a Sponsor does not elect to own all IP rights, the students will maintain any IP rights developed in the performance of the project. The Sponsor will be entitled to a copy of all drawings, specs, analysis, presentations and other reports or documents prepared by the student participants. The Sponsor may also be provided with any actual prototype(s) that is developed in the performance of the project.

Confidential/Proprietary Information

Sponsor, NDSU and the students that select the project will enter into an agreement for the protection of information exchanged during the performance of the project. Sponsor can elect to provide to NDSU and student participants with any of its commercial, financial and/or proprietary information, as defined by NDCC 44-04018.4, that it deems necessary for the completion of the project. All information provided by Sponsor under the agreement must be in either a written or tangible format and marked as “Confidential”. The Sponsor is not permitted

to provide NDSU with any information it considers trade secret information or which is export controlled by any US law. Sponsor should understand that the actual research and results will be publically disclosed via presentation at the close of the semester. However NDSU and students will endeavor to not divulge any specific pieces of Sponsor proprietary information in such presentation.

As a state university in North Dakota, NDSU is subject to the North Dakota public records laws that designate many of NDSU's records (including records received from third-parties) as public records available to anybody upon request. NDSU can only agree to restrict access to those records which are exempt from disclosure under the public records laws.

NDSU is not responsible for the actions of its students. If a student violates a non-disclosure agreement, NDSU is not liable for her/his actions.

Sponsors should be mindful that these are student-projects and NDSU will not provide any warranties regarding the quality of work.