

Advanced Topics Application Information

Sixth Formers have an additional educational opportunity in Advanced Topics to pursue their passions in a particular discipline when the area of interest is beyond the standard courses offered by the department. It is expected that students have already pursued the courses offered in the standard curriculum before applying for an Advanced Topics course.

Requirements of an Advanced Topics course:

- The student has demonstrated both interest and ability in the proposed area of study.
- The student must meet with the Topics adviser a minimum of twice per week, with at least one of those meetings occurring in the academic day.
- Students are required to record weekly updates of their progress using Canvas; the adviser will verify the student's progress each week.
- The adviser must be a faculty member at SPS (teaching fellows may not be advisers for Advanced Topics).
- Students may apply for an Advanced Topics for an entire year or a term-by-term basis.

Application Procedure:

- Students interested in applying for Advanced Topics must be highly motivated, independent learners with excellent academic records.
- Students must petition a faculty member to serve as the adviser to their project, recognizing that not all faculty will be able to take on this extra time commitment. The Advanced Topics adviser's role must be clearly stated in your proposal (*see below*).
- Students must submit the completed Advanced Topics Request Form and the completed proposal to the Dean of Studies – room 309 in Schoolhouse
- The Academic Department Heads group will review all proposals and determine which are approved.

Advanced Topics proposals include:

- A completed Advanced Topics Request Form with signed approval from the student adviser, the Advanced Topics adviser, and appropriate academic department head.
- A detailed plan that
 - articulates a course of study or a performance goal to be completed as fulfillment of the Advanced Topics requirement over the course of one term, including a weekly outline;
 - explains why the Advanced Topics is being requested;
 - lists materials and texts that will be used;
 - details the location and times of meetings;
 - explains the role of the adviser;
 - outlines the rubric that your adviser will use to assess your work both throughout and at the end of the term.

ADVANCED TOPICS REQUEST FORM

Name of Student: _____

Advanced Topics Title: _____

Applying for: YEAR LONG FALL TERM WINTER TERM SPRING TERM

Current Adviser: _____ Advanced Topics Adviser: _____

Other students applying for this Advanced Topics (each student must submit request):

List your current and planned courses for the year where applicable.

Fall Term

Winter Term

Spring Term

Please select one of the following options as it applies to you:

- I am presently enrolled in five credits but will substitute one credit with my Advanced Topics, if approved.
The course I intend to drop is _____
- I plan to take more than five credits if my Advanced Topics is approved. I do not plan to drop any courses.
- I am presently enrolled in fewer than five credits. I will have five credits should my Advanced Topics be approved.

Full Proposal, including Course Outline, must be attached to this application. (See Proposal Instructions Sheet)

Faculty Adviser Approval: _____

Academic Department Head Approval: _____

Director of Studies (only if request is approved): _____

**Advanced Topics adviser must sign acknowledgement page; student should turn in the acknowledgement page along with proposal.*

The Advanced Topics adviser acknowledges the following:

- The student has demonstrated both interest and ability in the proposed area of study.
- The student and adviser will meet a minimum of twice per week, with at least one of those meetings occurring in the academic day.
- Students are required to record weekly updates of their progress using Canvas; advisers will verify the progress each week and will use Canvas and 'grade' the weekly assignments submitted by the student to document progress.
- The adviser must be a faculty member at SPS (teaching fellows may not be advisers for Advanced Topics).
- Faculty members typically advise only one Advanced Topics per term.

Signature of Advanced Topics Adviser Acknowledging commitment:
