



Keystone Project Faculty Adviser Form

Keystone Projects

The keystone project of the Kilachand Honors College at Boston University is an integral part of every Kilachand student's education. Proposed during the junior year and undertaken during the senior year, the project consists of a substantial, in-depth work of research, creation, or invention in a student's chosen field.

Its form may vary from field to field, but the project should aim for the highest standards of the disciplinary or interdisciplinary area in question. The project must also be viable – that is, entail a research design that is intellectually ambitious but feasible given the time and resources available to college seniors. For example, students of international relations might write a policy paper; biomedical engineers might create a device; stage designers might create a set for a specific play; ecologists might design a study of the urban heat environment; painters might create a portfolio of pictures, journalism majors might create a portfolio of articles; artists might create a pop-up gallery; a business student may design a playground for disabled children. Although the keystone project originates in and is supported by Kilachand Honors College, students will undertake their research, and be advised, in their chosen field of study. Students in the College of Engineering complete the College of Engineering Senior Design Project in lieu of the Keystone Project.

Keystone-Related Courses

Junior Year: All Kilachand students must design and propose a feasible research project during their junior year. They must also find a faculty member in their discipline willing to advise them on the project.

Senior Year: Kilachand seniors will work on their project with their faculty advisers while continuing to develop and communicate their work with their peers in Kilachand. Requirements include:

- a year-long seminar, *KHC HC 501 and HC 502: Innovation, Culture, and Society* (2 semesters, 2 credits per semester), which employs written assignments and oral presentations to complement the work that students undertake for their keystone projects;
- a directed study, *KHC HC 503 and 504* (2 semesters, 2 credits per semester), with their faculty advisers (Students enrolled in programs that require students to complete senior projects or theses as part of their degree requirements in the senior year may take the required courses in their home school or college in lieu of KHC HC 503 and KHC HC 504);
- a conference in the fourth week of April which students will plan and during which each student will produce their results;
- a final written report or essay that documents, analyzes, or otherwise explains their work, results, or discoveries (as appropriate to the project).

Advising Responsibilities

The directed study sequence (KHC HC 503 and HC 504) provides Kilachand Honors College with a partial means of recognizing the time and effort that advising undergraduate research demands. Advising takes different forms in different disciplines, but the Directors of Kilachand College recommend the following general guidelines when advising keystone projects:

- 30 minute meetings with advisees every other week to address problems that confront students along the way;
- final grades for the directed study (KHC HC 503 and HC 504) based on the student's progress and the quality of their work;
- narrative evaluations and grades at midterm and the end of each semester for the instructors of KHC HC 501 and 503 Innovation, Culture and Society.

Student Responsibilities

In addition to fulfilling the requirements above, students are expected to make reasonable and steady progress on their keystone projects while working under the close supervision of their faculty advisors.

Please see reverse for signatures

The signature of a faculty adviser as well as one Kilachand Director and each student's KHC HC 401 instructor is a requirement for successful completion of the *KHC 401: The Process of Discovery*.

As faculty adviser to _____, I agree to supervise his/her research project, which is entitled _____.

Adviser name (please print)

School and department

Adviser signature

Date

Student name (please print)

School and major

Student signature

Date

KHC 401 instructor (please print)

KHC instructor signature/date

KHC director (please print)

KHC director signature/date