

Criteria for Evaluating IPRO Proposals

Proposals for creating an IPRO project team section must fulfill the following criteria to the greatest extent possible:

- **Achieve Interprofessional Learning Objectives (Refer to attached):** Each IPRO proposal should have the potential to engage undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines in a robust *multidisciplinary team experience*, develop and encourage effective *communication*, and require students to exercise effective *project management methods*. In addition, the *problem* to be solved must reflect *real world* constraints, opportunities or needs, including consideration of ethical issues. The project should naturally encourage students to be *resourceful i.e., developing and appreciating good practices associated with life long learning*). In the case of Entrepreneurial IPRO (EnPRO) projects, the project should have the potential to create awareness about and application of *business planning principles*.
- **Involve Faculty and Sponsors that Enjoy Team Projects:** An IPRO proposal must include one or more faculty members who commit to serving as instructors for the IPRO course and are passionate about the project. In addition, it is highly desirable if there is a company or professional in the Chicago area that is willing to either sponsor or consult on this project.
- **Appeal to Student Interests:** The proposal must be relevant to academic majors offered at IIT. In addition, the project or technology involved should be fun or exciting in order to engage students. If similar IPRO projects have been completed in the past, it is important to know if they have been successful and popular with students.
- **Solve a Well-Defined and Significant Problem:** It must be possible for undergraduate students to address a well-defined problem in one semester or in a phased way over two or more semesters; achieve meaningful and useful results and document their work. The problem should have significance for IIT, the City of Chicago, or the global community.
- **Strengthen IIT's Image and Reputation:** It is desirable for a project to have the potential for attracting attention to IIT, whether appealing to high school students and parents, the professional community or the general public. IPRO project results that can be turned into business ventures are also encouraged.
- **Offer a Coherent and Structured Scope:** The project should offer significant milestones on a semester basis. It may have a scope that is fully attainable within one semester, or may be phased over two or more semesters. Project themes that can be transformed into long-term project platforms with a continuously replenished set of goals and focus are also encouraged (e.g., e-learning games, pervasive computing, synthetic biology, robotics, sustainability). The proposed project should be designed to productively involve anywhere from 7 to 15 students.

IPRO Learning Objectives

The interprofessional course develops the following cross-competencies, skills and perspectives:

1. Development and Strengthening of **Multidisciplinary Team Building and Teamwork Practices**: IPRO students will have the opportunity to work with and learn more about other disciplines as well as teach others about their own discipline. Participation in the project will help the student better identify his or her own strengths and weaknesses as well as those of others, in order to better accomplish common team goals. Lastly, team members should learn how to resolve conflicts in a timely and fair manner.

2. Effective Use of Verbal, Written, and Visual **Communication Methods**: Students will build verbal and written skills through regular communication with the team and others sources such as sponsors and during IPRO Day presentations etc. Students will have a better understanding of what others communicate to them as well as how to clearly communicate their message to others. All team members will contribute to discussions while clarifying statements which may not be fully understood by others. Lastly, team members will learn to show respect for each others' opinions and actively encourage them to share their ideas.

3. Effective Use of **Project Management Methodology**: Team members will learn to better manage their time, and perform tasks in the time allotted. Tasks will be broken down and assigned to team members regularly to facilitate the accomplishment of project goals. Students will also take on leadership roles to develop skills in delegating tasks and motivating the team to perform efficiently. Overall, students will produce high quality work while achieving project goals in the appropriate time frame.

4. Effective Engagement in **Real World Problem Solving That Integrates Complex Issues, Including Ethics**: The project should provide realism in the tasks students are assigned so that they have a better idea of the types of problems that may occur in the workplace. In addition, students will learn to complete tasks in a professional manner and properly address any ethical issues that may arise in the process of completing the project.

5. Awareness and Application of **Business Planning Principles** (Entrepreneurial IPRO [EnPRO] project teams): An EnPRO provides an experience in starting up a new technology orientated business, focused on key planning and implementation activities and culminating in the preparation of a business plan for the start-up venture.

In addition, by virtue of its experiential open-ended real-time problem solving characteristics, the IPRO course offers opportunities for creating awareness of the benefits and desire for life-long learning. The student will become aware of the benefits of continuously acquiring new knowledge to serve a specific purpose or to broaden one's perspectives. The IPRO experience will increase the student's desire to continue to acquire knowledge and stimulate intellectual curiosity.