

# The 5 Requirements of a Researcher



W-A-Y MICHIGAN

Widening Advancements for Youth

## 1 Message their mentor at least 3-5 times per week (email, chat, text, phone call).



Tell them about what you are going to work on that day, what questions you have, what situations you are struggling with, and any ideas you may want to explore in a project.

This is important, as it lets your mentor know what your goals are, what you have been struggling with, and what is going on in your life so that they can help you balance both life and school work.

## 2 Earn at least 0.125 credits a week and 0.5 (a half) credit each month.

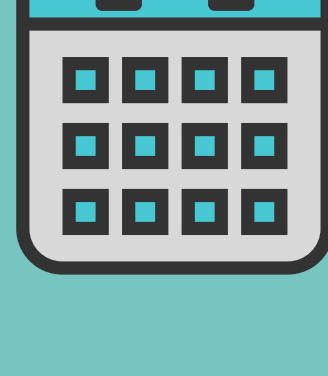


- The program is configured so that a freshman coming in with 0 credits will graduate high school on time if they earn 0.5 credits, every month, 12 months a year, for 4 years.



- To earn this credit, you will need to submit anywhere from 1-3 or more projects per week. If you ever want to know how much credit you have for a given week or a given month, please email or talk to your mentor or team leader.

- The .5 credit goal is for every month, 12 months a year. WAY Michigan students do not officially take a summer break, spring break, or winter/holiday break. No matter the time of year, you are required to earn .5 credit per month.



- This does not mean you can't take a vacation. You must get permission from your mentor and team leader, and they will decide if you are allowed to go on a vacation or take a break from school work for the holiday based on your previous work record.

## Vacation or School Break Examples

### Example #1

#### The 1-Day Holiday (Memorial Day, July 4th, MLK Jr. Day, etc.)

You do not have to work on these days. However, if you do not work on these holidays, you will need to spend the rest of the week making up the work you did not do on the holiday.

### Example #2

#### Life Event (birth, death, move, etc.) or Illness

If you have a major life event, please contact your mentor and team leader and they will work out an alternative credit plan for you to help you stay caught up.

### Example #3

#### Vacations

- You will need to get permission from your mentor and team leader if you want to take any time off from school. They will decide if you will need to work or not while you are gone.
- If you have done consistently good work (meeting your credit goals), then you can take a vacation.
- If you have NOT been earning your credit, you will not be allowed to take a vacation.
- If you do take a vacation, you are still required to earn the 0.5 credit for that month. You either make up the work before you go or when you come back.

### Example #4

#### Large Holidays (Christmas)

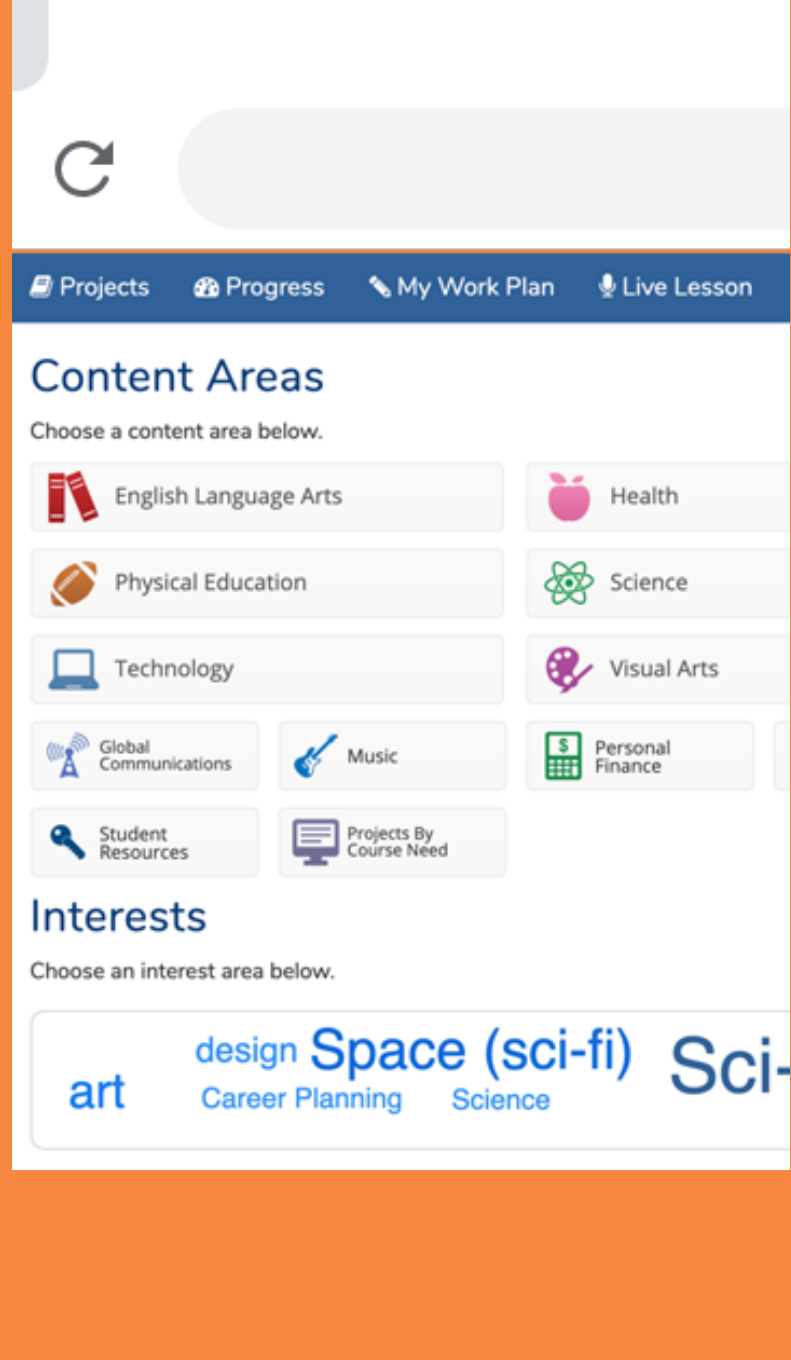
Researchers do not get an official holiday break. What you can do is "front load" the beginning of December. Do the entire month's work in the first two weeks of December, then once you hit that 0.50 minimum credit goal, then you can take the last two weeks off.

## 3 Log in to HERO and work on projects for 6 hours a day, 5 days a week (30 hours per week), all year

- Being present and logged in to HERO for 30 hours per week is about the same amount of time you would spend in a traditional school each week. This 30 hours can be spread out and scheduled however you see fit and whatever works for your schedule. You can work at 2 am or 2 pm, whichever is most convenient for you.

- The state of Michigan is now requiring that each student spend a specific number of hours in school. If they put in roughly 30 hours per week, they should make their number of hours per school year.

- We can check your browsing history and approximate how much time you are spending on the school website. We ask that you are putting in the time and effort to do your schoolwork and do it well.



## 4 Attend Count Day in October and February and complete all Count Day requirements.

The first Wednesday in October and the second Wednesday in February are Count Days, which is a day that all students must attend (log in) school and "be counted." The school receives funding for each student counted on Count Day.

This funding is what we use to educate our students. The requirements that must be met ON Count Day are as follows:

- 1 Log in to HERO.
- 2 Email, chat, text, or phone call your mentor and have an academic, 2-3 minute conversation about a specific project you are working on. This type of conversation must then happen the 3 Wednesdays following Count Day as well.
- 3 The student may also be required to be logged in a set amount of time or to submit a set amount of submitted work in each class on their learning plan (6 classes total, even for those seniors who have finished most of their classes). These requirements will be listed out for the students at least a month in advance.

Please mark these days on your calendar and keep them conflict-free. No doctor appointments, no lunch dates. It will take time to complete the class requirements, so please make those the focus on that day.

## 5 Complete State and Charter-authorized mandatory testing in:

- October (middle school)
- April (middle school & high school)
- May (middle school)

Each October (middle school only), April, and May (middle school only), all of our researchers are required to take the state and charter-authorized mandatory standardized tests according to the grade they are in, which is determined by the amount of credit they have the week leading up to the test. (If a researcher is behind in credit, they take the tests associated with the grade they are currently in, not the grade they should be in based on age.)

For some of these tests, you will have to travel to a testing location. We understand that some of you will have to travel a long way, and we will make what accommodations we can. Specific accommodations will be worked out between the researcher, the researcher's parent/guardian, and the Team Leader.

You will be sent information via email and regular mail and via the researcher's mentor about specific tests, dates, times, locations, and what to bring to the test at least a month prior to the test so that plans can be made well in advance.



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