

PROJECT POSTER REQUIREMENTS

ECE 480

1.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the most important skills that a technical person must develop to become successful is to communicate effectively the essence of his/her technical work in an extraordinarily short time and/or small space. Designing and producing a project poster provides the mechanism for each team to enhance this skill. Further, increasingly professional meetings are expanding the number and scope of their "poster sessions" as one meaning of increasing the technical content of the meetings; hence this is a skill that will have practical applications for many new technical professionals.

The poster will help to communicate to the judges of the Prism Venture Partners Prize what the accomplishments of the team have been. Finally, since the posters are displayed on the walls of the department for at least a semester, they serve to showcase the breadth and depth of the departmental senior design activity. The department and its faculty are very proud of the several senior design projects that are being conducted at any point in time. These posters allow the senior design project teams to exhibit the high quality of their projects.

These posters are viewed by a variety of people including other students in our department, important visitors to our department (including judges of the competition), faculty and staff of the department, and visitors who are family and friends of current and future students. Undergraduate students of the department view the posters as means to stimulate thinking about future senior design projects and to develop ideas on how to best present their information while planning and developing their posters. Important visitors to our department are people who serve on our industrial visiting committee, sponsor research in the department, recruiters, or are financial donors to the departmental programs and activities. These posters help to inform these visitors of the types of research that our undergraduate students are doing and the capabilities our students have developed. Faculty and staff view these posters to learn more about the varied activities that are occurring in the department. Finally, family and friends of present and future students can learn about the capabilities that our students develop while undergraduates at Michigan State University.

1.1.1 Target Audiences

There are three target audiences for the posters. The first priority is other undergraduate students, as discussed in the previous paragraph. The second priority is technical visitors to the department, as also described in the previous paragraph. It should be remembered that many of these visitors are extremely knowledgeable in one or two technical areas, but they are not experts in all facets of electrical and computer engineering. Finally, the third priority is the lay public who may walk through the building for various reasons.

1.1.2 Required Poster Size and Mounting

Posters must be sized to fit in departmental display cases. Each poster shall be 30 inches high by 24 inches wide and printed on the plotter available in DECS. You should leave about ½ inch margin, so the actual size in which text must fit is 29 inches high by 23 inches wide. Your poster must be mounted neatly (spray adhesive is suggested) on a 30" x 24" piece of foam-core board, which is available from the ECE Shop. Posters in general should use brief and to-the-point word descriptions. Graphics and photos add interest to the poster and should be included on the poster. Make sure the font sizes are large enough that

the poster can be read from a distance of 3-4 feet. Information on printing the poster can be found at the website: www.egr.msu.edu/decs/facilities/plotter.php

1.2 OUTLINE OF REQUIRED POSTER CONTENT

This section and its associated subsections describe the items to appear on the poster. Items shall appear in approximately the order given, and be readily identifiable. Notice that items described in the following subsections are *condensed* from the description of the project proposal/final report, as they should be on the poster.

1.2.1 Project Title: (Required)

The title of the poster, and of the project, should be descriptive but reasonable in length. Fifty characters should be an upper limit.

1.2.2 Team Number: (Required)

The team number shall be associated with the team member names to aid in the poster evaluation.

1.2.3 Names: (Required)

The names of the project sponsor(s), team members, and faculty facilitator shall all be provided. If the sponsor is off-campus, a general location shall be provided.

1.2.4 Abstract: (Required)

The abstract for the project shall be included. It should be similar to that in the proposal and final report, except for possible shortening.

1.2.5 Acknowledgments: (Optional)

If the sponsor(s) and/or other organization(s) have contributed significant assistance in the form of technical advice, equipment, or financial aid, etc., a brief acknowledgement of this contribution shall be included in a separate section. If the sponsor(s) is either a student or a faculty member, the acknowledgement is not necessary.

1.2.6 Introduction: (Required)

The introduction shall contain the following components, each of which is a condensed version from the project proposal:

- Problem/Need – This subsection shall summarize the problem area/product need in a non-technical manner.
- Intended user(s) and use(s) – This subsection shall summarize the intended user and intended uses.
- Assumptions and limitations – This subsection shall summarize the major assumptions and limitations of the project.

1.2.7 Design Requirements: (Required)

This section shall include the following components, each of which is a condensed version from the project

proposal:

- Design objectives – This subsection shall summarize the major design objectives of the project.
- Design constraints – This subsection shall summarize the major constraints that were considered during the design and implementation.

1.2.8 End-Product Description: (Required)

This shall be a one-paragraph description of the commercialized end product. It shall be in the form of a technical product announcement as opposed to a product advertisement.

1.2.9 Technical Approach: (Required)

This section shall summarize the technical approaches used for the design. This section often includes block diagrams, flow charts, schematics, etc.

1.2.10 Testing Approach: (Required)

This section shall summarize the testing approach used.

1.2.11 Budget Effort: (Required)

This section shall indicate the actual budget of the project.

1.2.12 Final Product/Project Results: (Required)

This section shall describe the final design or product achieved. It should document the product/design performance in comparison to the design specification. This section may also discuss areas or ideas for future improvement. Photographs of the final product may be appropriate in this section.

1.2.12 References: (If required by content)

This section shall provide citations of sources of any protected material used on the poster.
