



MiddCOREplus Summer Challenge Program

152 Maple Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

MiddCOREplus Collaborate. Communicate. Create.

MiddCORE is Middlebury College's unique 160+ hour academic program designed to build skills in idea creation, leadership, collaboration, problem-solving, persuasive communication, strategic thinking, and entrepreneurship.

Students who complete MiddCORE are eligible to apply for MiddCOREplus, a summer program in which MiddCORE graduates are partnered with local Vermont organizations to solve challenges through project-based internships. Students receive stipends from Middlebury College to support their participation.

Suitable projects are first solicited from local organizations and then vetted by MiddCORE program leaders to ensure the viability of each challenge (e.g., Can the project be completed within the given time frame? Are there sufficient resources available? Will there be appropriate mentoring by the local organization?). Once selected for MiddCOREplus inclusion, the projects are advertised to our MiddCORE students.

MiddCORE students are encouraged to apply for specific MiddCOREplus projects based on their own qualifications and interest. Local organizations review and interview MiddCORE applicants and ultimately select the candidate with the best fit for their needs.

The MiddCOREplus challenge begins May 29th and runs for eight weeks until July 20th. During this time, students are expected to work 30 hours per week for their partner organization. In addition, they will meet once weekly with faculty and staff to review progress and to engage in mentor-driven workshops that expand the MiddCORE skill set.



Resources Provided by MiddCORE

1. Student labor (approximately 240 hours), faculty supervisor and supporting staff.
2. Ongoing training for the student during the eight weeks (3 hour workshops at Middlebury College once a week).
3. Access to Middlebury College's Library and Information Services.
4. Collaboration with the MiddCORE Director and staff who will communicate with both the mentoring organization and student throughout the challenge.
5. Housing and stipend.

Resources Requested from the Partner Organization

1. Detailed description of the project, its importance to the organization, and clear expectations for a final product or "deliverable."
2. A designated mentor from the organization who will serve as an on-site resource for the student and the primary liaison to MiddCORE staff.
3. Access to relevant resources for the challenge (e.g., data, documents, etc.).

Aspects of Successful Proposals

- The project should be real and current, for which expertise and effort is needed.
- It should be possible to frame the project as a question that needs to be answered, rather than a task that just needs to be done.
- The project should be locally focused, in the sense that students will be able to conduct some research "in the field".
- The project should be coherently defined, so that project expectations and student deliverables are clearly established at the start of the project.
- The project should be of sufficient magnitude to occupy the efforts of a bright and motivated student for approximately 30 hours a week for 8 weeks.
- The project should require the incorporation of a variety of perspectives.
- The project should require collaborative interactions with coworkers, community members and partner organizations.
- The project should lend itself to some form of final report or oral presentation at a public forum.



Description of the Project:

1. Briefly describe the project
2. What question(s) will the successful completion of this project answer?
3. What will be expected at the completion of the project (e.g., final report, presentation, data analysis, etc.)?
4. Describe the value of the proposed project to the organization. Specifically, how will this project fit within the organization's short term/long-term goals and mission?
5. Describe the value of the proposed project to the MiddCORE student.
6. What specific qualifications are needed?
7. Where will the majority of this project be completed (at organization's site, at client site, in the field, etc.)?
8. What resources will be provided to the student?
9. Who will be the primary mentor and how many hours a week will he/she be available to the student?
10. In addition to the mentor, with whom will the student be expected to work?
11. Will this project connect to other organizations and resources in the Vermont area? If so, how?

All inquiries are welcome. Project submissions are due by **January 13th, 2012**. Please contact middcore@middlebury.edu or MiddCORE research associate Catherine Collins at 802-443-5404