

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ
2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Application

Page 1: Cover Sheet

Principal Investigator

Name: Chrissy O'Grady

Department: Library

Campus email: ogradyc@newpaltz.edu

Rank (during award period): Lecturer Assistant Prof. Associate Prof. Full Prof.

Student Investigator(s)

Name: Sophia Acquisto

Major / minor: Childhood Education, History Concentration

Expected graduation date and degree: May 2022, B.S

Project Title: *Researching the Hudson Valley's Historically Significant Places for the Creation of an Educational History App*

Acronym definitions (if not provided in the text of the proposal):

Ethical Considerations:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Does this work involve human subjects? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>If yes, has the HREB been notified or has the project been approved?</i> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this work involve recombinant DNA? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>If yes, has the IBC been notified?</i> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Does this work involve non-human vertebrates?</i> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Expected start date: June 1, 2021

(This is needed for budgeting purposes. Provide the most accurate date possible. This information will not affect proposal ranking!)

Budget (cannot exceed \$1000, including delivery fees). Please provide a preliminary list of items and associated costs. Items may be categorized if you have a long list of items:

No money requested.

Budget total: \$0

Does the requested budget cover all expenses related to the proposed work? Yes No

If not, explain the additional sources of funding that will be used.

Pages 2-3: Faculty Statement

I accept responsibility for the conduct of this project and assure that the information in this application is correct. (Indicate your agreement by checking the box.)

Question 1: What is the issue you are addressing? Provide a BRIEF and clear review (citations not required) of the prior work that led you to the proposed project.

There is currently no comprehensive educational Hudson Valley history resource available digitally. Currently, lists of local history resources live online through historical organizations or library websites. These resources are not interactive and typically provide narratives without a geographical element. The My Hudson History project will try to fill this gap by combining elements of digital public history, education, and emerging technologies to create a comprehensive local history app that educators and learners of all ages can use.

Question 2: How does your project address this issue? Include any hypotheses, if applicable

The goal of the project is to create a comprehensive educational history app that can be used by teachers, students, and those interested in learning about local Hudson Valley history. During this phase of the project, Sophia will continue to pinpoint historical sites using existing research by historians and historical organizations. By compiling already existing historiography, Sophia can create an all-inclusive local history resource that includes a geographic overview of the region. After this research phase, Sophia plans to move into the app development phase.

Question 3: How will the project be conducted? Summarize any core procedures or activities. Outline your anticipated timeline for each major phase of the project.

The project involves identifying, categorizing, and summarizing historically significant people, places, and events in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties. Sophia will conduct all the research and focus on ten main categories: American Revolution; Black History; Civil Rights; Culture; Government; Music, Art, and Theatre; Native Americans; Nature; U.S. Presidents; and Women.

Sophia will compile a list of people, places, and events in a shared Google Document which I will review. I will help her identify additional resources if she has any gaps in her research. Sophia will also contact local historians and historical organizations to gather additional information that may not be available online. During the last two weeks of SURE, Sophia will map the locations she identified onto her custom Google Map.

The anticipated timeline is as follows:

Week 1: Find Dutchess County's places, add sources to each place and descriptions

Week 2: Find Orange County's places, add sources and descriptions

Week 3: Find Putnam's places, add sources and descriptions

Week 4: Find Rockland's places, add sources and descriptions

Week 5: Find Westchester's places, add sources and descriptions

Week 6: Fill any gaps in research. This may include emailing/virtually meeting with local historians.

Week 7: Add Dutchess, Orange and Putnam's places to custom map

Week 8: Add Rockland and Westchester's places to custom map

Question 4: What is the student's role in the project? What are the student's qualifications? If there are multiple students, address them separately here and justify their separate roles.

This is an entirely student-driven project. Sophia developed the idea to create a local history app that can be used by educators, students, and anyone interested in learning about their local history when she realized there was not a complete list of Hudson Valley history resources. She has been working on this

project on her own since 2020. During this phase of the project, she will be researching the last 5 counties she has identified for the history app which include Dutchess County, Orange County, Putnam County, Rockland County and Westchester County.

Question 5: What are the project's main learning outcomes for the student? Explain how they extend beyond those achieved by normal course activities in your major.

Sophia will continue identifying historically significant locations using online resources and connecting with local historians who can help fill in any gaps in her research. Currently, there are not a lot of opportunities to explore local history in course offerings. Sophia will also continue to learn how to identify resources that are approachable for learners of any level. Sophia is an educator at heart and learning what resources are approachable for different levels of education will help her with her future career goals. Additionally, Sophia will continue to learn project management skills as she manages her research schedule and communicates with local historians.

Question 6: What is your mentoring plan? Include your meeting schedule. Address safety (laboratory, studio, travel, etc.) or ethical issues too, as appropriate.

Sophia and I will meet weekly over Zoom and email between meetings. During our meetings we will discuss what she has found and if she encountered any research issues. I will help her identify additional places to look for research, provide assistance obtaining resources not readily available online, and attend any meetings she has with local historians.

Question 7: How do the requested budget items support the project and the student's learning outcomes?
We are not requesting financial support. Sophia can conduct research remotely using the open web, online archives, and local history organizations.

Question 8: Should campus remain in its COVID-19 protocol during this summer, what steps you will take to adhere to campus guidelines in conducting the project and mentoring the student?

This is an entirely remote project and will not require any in-person activities in the Summer.

Question 9 (if applicable; include additional pages, if needed): What work (whether tied to the current project or no) was accomplished with previous (past 3 years) AYURE or SURE funding? Information on the post-graduation placement of former AYURE / SURE students will be appreciated.

AYURE Spring 2021, Sophia Acquisto: Sophia identified historically significant places in Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, and Columbia Counties. Sophia focused on the following categories while collecting information: American Revolution; Black History; Civil Rights; Culture; Government; Music, Art, and Theatre; Native Americans; Nature; U.S. Presidents; and Women. She is currently researching Ulster County and mapping the locations she identified on a Google Map. She is on track to complete all 5 counties and map all locations by the end of the AYURE term.

Page 4: Student Statement

I accept responsibility for the conduct of this project and assure that the information in this application is correct. (Indicate your agreement by checking the box.)

Question 1: Describe your role in achieving the goal(s) of proposed project. If multiple students are involved, describe your roles and workload division here.

I will be contacting historical organizations and virtually researching information for half of the Hudson Valley's counties to find the most historically significant places. By the end of spring 2021, I will have finished the first five counties, and I plan on finishing the last five in this project. This is how I will fully achieve my data collection goal for the history app.

Question 2: Describe the specific methodology you will employ in carrying out this role.

I will be reaching out to networks of historical organizations through email, requesting access to their archives and documentation for research and for the purpose of building an educational history app. I will be accessing the online resources of various historical organizations at the state, county, and local city levels. For each of the ten counties of the Hudson Valley, I have ten large categories and ten specific subcategories of history to fill in with places of historical significance. Due to the pandemic's closing of museums and physical locations, my research will be restricted to virtual archives and communications.

Question 3: Describe your qualifications to participate in the proposed project.

I began this project in spring 2020, inspired by an open-ended final for Professor DeLamater's Hudson Valley Culture class. I was asked to create something that showed my passion for local history. So, being an education major interested in history, I created a prototype for this app. In spring 2021, I have had the opportunity to complete the first half of my work with the AYURE program. As of the end of March, I have completed over 90 pages worth of research and finished 4 counties (Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, and Columbia). Each place I label is titled, has a pinpointed location, is described in a succinct paragraph (that the app's user would read once it is mapped), and has a source of information noted. With the progress I have made so far on this digital history project, this undergraduate research experience has prepared me to network with historical organizations, hone my experiences in archival work, and finish my historical research, so I may focus on the digital mapping aspects in fall 2021.

Question 4: Describe your plans to meet with your mentor for guidance.

I plan to hold virtual, weekly meetings with my mentor to discuss the project's progress. I will also keep in touch with my mentor over email.

Question 5: Describe your plans after graduation and how your involvement in the proposed work relates to these goals.

After graduating with a B.S. in Childhood Education (B-6), I plan on pursuing a Master's degree in Education. After gaining some years of experience as an educator, I would like to become involved with UNESCO and pursue educational equality on a greater level. As an educator, a fundamental goal of mine is to ensure every student receives a high-quality education. By completing the research behind an accessible app that would make history lessons feel more relatable to students, and encourage their interests in learning local history and culture, I am not only educating individuals, but also supporting educational equality as a whole.

Question 6: Describe your plans for presenting the results of your research, including but not limited to the required SURE presentation in Fall.

Once my history research has been finalized, I will map the work onto a demo prototype to be interacted with. With my mentor's guidance, I have been exploring various digital mapping platforms outside of Google Maps that I could use to create the customized, interactive map I envision (ex: OpenStreetMaps).