

## Characteristics of an Ideal ECE Senior Design Project

An ideal ECE 481/482 project would include the following characteristics.

It would be a project that would require the development of a component, product or system that has potential for satisfying a real need. What is a real need? Here, a real need would be one that had been identified/encountered by a practicing engineer employed by a local firm where the firm would be in the business of designing, developing and/or manufacturing engineering components, products or systems. Further, the firm would agree to sponsor the product.

Sponsorship would include the following:

- The firm would provide project team members with periodic access to a firm engineer(s). The engineer(s) would be available to provide the team with direction, counseling and advice.
- The firm would provide the team with access to and use of their facilities and engineering services for the purpose of fabrication, development, and testing of the project.
- The firm would provide funding for project components and other miscellaneous expenses.

The ideal project would have both hardware and a software component. (Note: Projects with only a hardware component are acceptable. Exclusively software projects will not be approved)

The ideal project would be one that required a result (final product) near the “Proof-of-Concept” end of the spectrum rather than near the “Ready-for-the-Consumer” end of the spectrum.

See the course syllabus for exacting requirements on sources and disclosure of project information. In short, senior design projects must be “open” projects.