

Dear Field Studies Applicant,

The educational development **project proposal** is an important part of your application and field studies experience. Your project proposal constitutes the basis of your presentations in China this summer at several international education conferences. Your selected project topic might also give you direction as to which subjects (traditional or non-traditional) to teach children during the summer day camps in rural schools. We recommend you choose a topic you are passionate about and with which you have direct personal experiences and/or connections. The more you are personally involved in the subject matter, the more effective your project will be. Here are a few project topics students have presented in the past:

- Discipline Without Disciplining in the United States: The Role of After School Programs
- Arts Education in the United States: Reinvigorating and Inspiring Students
- Developing Leadership/Teamwork Skills, Voicing Personal Opinions, and Exploring Social/Career Interests through Publicly-Funded Extracurricular Student Organizations: How After-School Activities Supplement Academics and Advance Preparation for Higher Education
- The Importance of Visual Imagery in American Education
- Promoting Volunteerism and Academic Awareness in American Public Schools: National Honor Society
- Learning through Play: Exploring Creative Lessons
- The Importance of Mentorship Programs for Personal and Community Development
- Improving China's Ethnic Minority Schools: Borrowing Lessons from Jewish Day School in America
- The Educational Value of Athletics
- Health Education in the United States

As is evident above, project proposal topics can include but are not limited to:

- Your most meaningful learning experience in a U.S. school (k-12)
- Differences between public and private schools in the US
- Building self-confidence in a classroom setting
- SAT and other standardized tests
- Education policy and its impact (For example, No Child Left Behind Act)
- College practices for environment protection
- The variety of school-based extracurricular activities
- Development of foreign language skills in U.S. schools
- Community services and volunteering in the U.S.
- Ethnic and racial diversity in U.S. schools
- Development of personal skills
 - Ability to learn independently
 - Ability to summarize information
 - Ability to communicate and work in a group
 - Ability to analyze
 - Problem solving ability
 - Creative and critical thinking

After being admitted to the program, you will make many revisions to your project proposal (including several pre-program revisions in Chinese as well as much practice of the presentation in consultation with your instructors in China). The ideas and concepts within your presentation should draw upon your own experiences and ideas about education in the U.S, which should be *well thought out and formulated in your initial project proposal*. As such, we recommend spending ample time thinking about the ideas you would like to convey to your audience in China. What have you experienced within the U.S. educational system that you would like to share with those interested in new ways of thinking about education in China? Is there a topic you feel you are particularly suited to speak about based on your own story or personal experience/s in the U.S.? Try to think about what has touched your own life in terms of education, and then work on developing your project proposal from there.

Your project proposal should be ***no longer than 3-5 pages*** and should take the following essential points into consideration:

- ***Provide your audience with something useful/informative.*** Chinese teachers at the international conferences will be interested in new ways of looking at/thinking about education. Chinese educators will be interested to hear directly from you about the American education system. Some of the questions they might have could include: What is the American educational system really like? How is it similar or different from China's educational system? What are some aspects of the American educational system that I could try out in my own classroom?

You project should include something that Chinese educators would find useful or informative.

- ***Clarity of thought in English=clarity of thought in Chinese.*** Use plenty of specific examples, illustrations, demonstrations, etc. to make your points as clear as possible in your project proposal (which is in English). You will then be able to use your proposal as a solid guide for developing your presentation in Chinese.
- ***Use personal experiences to relate a broader, "macro" point about education.*** Make sure to relate your proposal to overall educational goals that you believe one should achieve in a society. Such educational goals could include: academic achievement, intellectual development, creativity, leadership, critical thinking skills, personal growth, life learning skills, etc.
- ***Consider your presentation methods and procedures.*** Include in your proposal how you plan to present your project to others (PowerPoint, picture collage, video presentation, interactive game, etc.).

Please feel free to contact Donna with any questions you have regarding the project proposal at dcardare@hamilton.edu (315-859-4519). We look forward to getting your application!

Best Regards,

Admissions Committee
Associated Colleges in China (ACC)

