The B+ project goes beyond a B project in the following ways:
- The student shows greater independence and is coming up with most of the creative solutions and ideas on their own but still needs some creative input from the advisor. When input is given by the advisor the student acts on it to maximize its usefulness.
- Progress is very consistent. Many weeks, the student exceeds expectations.
- The project advisor learns a few things about the project area from the student.
- The project deliverables (e.g., reports, talks, posters, parts drawings) are all of high quality with only a few minor errors or deficiencies.
- The project demonstrates significant use of analysis and engineering science as well as brainstorming and "cut and try".
- Additional evidence of eligibility for a B+ could be provided by the student presenting their work at an internal conference like the Steinmetz Symposium.

To earn an A+, all of the requirements of B+ must be met plus the final project outcome must be of very high quality. Evidence that would indicate that a grade of A- is warranted includes things like:
- The student is very independent. They take the lead in developing creative solutions and ideas.
- The project meetings are at a high, almost graduate level. The advisor learns from the student week by week.
- Progress is rapid and steady throughout the term. The student is consistently exceeding weekly expectations.
- The project deliverables are all of very high quality.
- Additional evidence for an A- might include the student presenting their work at an external student conference like NCUR, at student sessions at other professional conferences or competing in a major competition.

To earn an A, the project must meet and significantly exceed expectations and requirements for an A-. The A project is so good that the advisor wants to run down the hall and tell their colleagues about it! Strong evidence of meeting this mark will be required. Such evidence might include:
- A review by external experts who indicate the project to be of excellent quality.
- The project produces outcomes that could result in a publication or patent.
- The project attains a high ranking in an external competition.
- The project brings a significant innovative design or idea to completion in all respects, e.g., analyze, design, build, demonstrate.

Note: Student attendance and active participation in weekly department seminars will impact the MER 497 and MER 498 grade.