

Capstone Experience in the Major Application Template

Name of the Major*: Philosophy (B.A. and B.S.)

Department/Unit: Philosophy, Religious Studies, Anthropology

Contact Person: Karin Fry

Report of Dept. Vote: 10 Approve 0 Oppose 0 Abstain Date: 5/11/12

*Note: Each major must have a designated Capstone Experience in the Major.

Capstone Experience in the Major Learning Outcomes:

A capstone experience is either a single seminar or a broader culminating experience designed to be offered near the completion of a student's program of study. It is meant to provide students the opportunity to make connections between the key learning objectives of their majors and the General Education Program Outcomes, and to consider how their educations have prepared them for the world beyond the university.

To fulfill this requirement, students will:

- Complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.
- Demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond.

Capstone Experience in the Major Criteria:

1. Departments will designate a Capstone course(s) or experience for each of its majors.
2. The Capstone course(s) or experience should require the use of skills, methodology, and knowledge which demonstrate continuity between the General Education Program Outcomes and the major.
3. Capstone courses or experiences should have sufficiently small enrollment caps to allow for active participation by each student and feedback by the instructor.

Capstone Experience in the Major

1. If the department is designating a course or courses for the Capstone Experience, list them here:

Phil 490 Senior Seminar (topics change)

- 2. Describe how the course(s) listed above will require the use of skills, methodologies, and knowledge that demonstrate continuity between the General Education Program Outcomes and the academic major.**

In the humanities, the course outcomes stress the ability to read carefully, speak clearly, think critically and write persuasively. Our senior seminar in philosophy stresses all these learning outcomes by requiring students to make informed arguments that presuppose an understanding of different theories and world views.

- 3. Describe how the assignments in the course(s) listed above will achieve the following outcomes:**
- a. Students will complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.**

The primary assignment in the senior seminar is to write one longer **or** two shorter papers arguing for a well-informed thesis. This requires synthesizing texts, organizing ideas, and using persuasive evidence to inform one's position. These types of papers are the typical methodology of the field of philosophy. Another important assignment is to make an extensive oral presentation to the class on philosophical material. This involves identifying important ideas and communicating these ideas clearly to the class.

- b. Students will demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond.**

The skills stressed in the senior seminar allow students to work on their research and writing independently, giving them practice at making informed judgments on their own. This careful process assists students in making informed decisions and communicating their reasons for those decisions to others. Many professional environments demand the ability to reason and communicate effectively.

- 4. Capstone courses and experiences should have sufficiently small enrollments which facilitate active participation and allow for feedback from the instructor. Please describe your department's enrollment policy for the Capstone Experience.**

The target enrollment is 21

- 5. If your department is designating experiences other than a specific course to meet the Capstone requirement, please list those experience(s) below.**

n/a

- 6. Describe how the Capstone experience(s) listed above will achieve the following outcomes.**
- a. Students will complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.**

n/a

- b. Students will demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond.**

n/a