

**Capstone Experience in the Major
Application Template**

Name of the Major*: Psychology (Bachelor of Science)
Psychology with Concentration in Human Services (Bachelor of Science)

Department/Unit: Psychology

Contact Person: Craig Wendorf, Chair

Report of Dept. Vote: ___ Approve ___ Oppose ___ Abstain Date: _____

*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:

Given the numbers of declared Psychology majors, students may choose either:
PSYC 400 (Advanced Research Methods in Psychology)
PSYC 490 (Seminar: Topics in Psychology)

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.

Both the Psychology major and the Concentration in Human Services are designated as Bachelor of Science degrees. As such, they directly build on the communication, scientific methodology, and quantitative analyses aspects of the BS designation. Other General Education Program outcomes – such as the foundational outcomes in the social and natural sciences and those targeting cultural awareness – are relevant to different subdisciplines in Psychology. Overall, the knowledge and skills from the GEP will be essential for the advanced projects required by the Capstone Experiences in Psychology (see below).

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.

PSYC 400 (Advanced Research Methods in Psychology) integrates core course content from one of our subdisciplines with research methodology and statistics in order to create a collaborative empirical research product.

PSYC 490 (Seminar: Topics in Psychology) integrates multiple perspectives, subdisciplines in Psychology, or disciplines to address an advanced topic in Psychology (and the topic rotates depending on the instructors teaching the course). Students will produce projects consistent with the topic and goals of the course, including comprehensive literature reviews, program evaluations, etc.

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

The projects used in the classes reflect the types of projects and communication common in Psychology. Thus, students completing these projects will be better trained for Bachelors-level jobs related to Psychology and for advanced, graduate-level degrees in Psychology. More broadly, our integrative capstone courses will teach students to be independent thinkers, thereby preparing them to consider and question the foundational assumptions of the political, economic, cultural, and scientific systems they inhabit.

- 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.**

Both PSYC 400 (Advanced Research Methods in Psychology) and PSYC 490 (Seminar: Topics in Psychology) will be capped at 20 students per section. These classes are currently offered as Writing Emphasis (WE) and will also be part of our Communication in the Major GEP requirement. Thus, by design, they involve active participation and feedback.

- 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