

## **Capstone Course and Culminating Experience Guidelines**

Capstone courses or culminating experiences are designed to synthesize knowledge and skills acquired by students in a program of study.

### **Definitions**

- A culminating experience is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole program experience.
- The capstone course is to draw learning together and to provide a single opportunity or experience during which a student demonstrates that he or she has accomplished or achieved the department's educational goals for the program as represented by the various courses taken and the appropriate mission statements.

### **Components**

- Clear definition of learning expectations as identified by learning outcomes.
- Requires the student to apply knowledge and skills gained from courses in the program.
- Requires the student to demonstrate learning.
- Must be a minimum of three credits for a capstone course or 45 clock hours for a culminating experience.
- Department must provide a scoring rubric for each capstone course and culminating experience.
- Courses that are pre-requisites for a capstone course or culminating experience must be identified and listed in the syllabus for a capstone course or culminating experience.

### **Qualifications to enroll in Culminating Experience or Capstone Course**

- Students must have a 2.0 GPA or higher.
- Students may enroll when they have met the pre-requisites and completed three-quarters of the program major.

### **Examples of Culminating Experiences may include but are not limited to**

- Culminating seminar requiring a major project
- Semester projects that culminate in a paper, essay, presentation, etc.
- Internship to investigate a problem and paper in which the student analyzes and evaluates the experience.
- Performance, show, recital, etc.