

SENIOR HONORS CAPSTONE

OVERVIEW

Honors students are expected to undertake a Capstone Project in their major area during their senior year. The purpose of the Honors Capstone Project is to provide students with an opportunity to integrate and apply what they have learned in their in-and out-of-class academic experiences over the course of their time at SLU. The Capstone Project demonstrates the knowledge each student has acquired, but, more importantly, the Capstone demonstrates breadth and depth in critical analysis, synthesis, integration, communication, and creativity. An Honors Capstone is an intensive product of the student's independent work, but should involve ongoing engagement with, and feedback from, faculty advisors or mentors. Many majors at SLU require a senior thesis or capstone; those projects might fulfill the requirements of the Honors Capstone.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS AN HONORS CAPSTONE?

Honors Capstone Projects vary by discipline, but should be a product of publishable quality. Faculty in the student's major area may determine projects that are appropriate for an Honors Capstone. Possibilities for each discipline include the following:

- Humanities (English, history, philosophy, etc.): A thesis that synthesizes primary and secondary sources to generate a new argument about a specific topic of inquiry. This manuscript is typically between 30-40 pages long.
- Social sciences (public health, sociology, anthropology, etc.): An evaluation of current trends in human behavior (usually 15-30 pages).
- Hard sciences (biology, chemistry, clinical psychology, physics, etc.): A sophisticated laboratory report that summarizes the results of research completed by the student (usually 8-20 pages).
- Creative disciplines (fine art, theater, music, creative writing, etc.): A performance, portfolio, documentary or manuscript of original creative work.
- Professional programs (physical therapy, nutrition & dietetics, nursing, occupat. therapy, etc.): A presentation/event for community education, a detailed wellness/Diet/Fitness/health plan for a specific client, or research on the effectiveness of different interventions in the field of study.
- Engineering program: A physical project or invention created by the student that can perform a specific calculated task, such as a robot, a rocket launcher, a circuit board, etc.
- Business school: A full marketing plan, a write-up of consumer/market research, a portfolio of brand development, an extensive business plan, or a demonstration of accounting skills.

GUIDELINES

- The Honors Capstone Project must be in the student's major area.
- The project must be sponsored by a full-time (non-adjunct) SLU faculty member actively engaged in research for publication in the appropriate discipline that will oversee the student's progress during the completion of the project.
- Students must enroll in HR4960 (Honors Capstone; 0 SLU credit hours, 1-3 Honors credits) the semester they intend to complete the Honors Capstone. Students should enroll in this course during the registration period corresponding to their classification.
- Students whose preparation will last longer than one semester do not need to register for the Honors Capstone (HR4960) while their technical/field work is being completed.

- For group projects, students need to specify independent contributions to the project and complete an independent component to submit for Honors credit.
- Students conducting research at other institutions for their Honors Capstone are responsible for securing their own research site and coordinating logistics between the two institutions. These students must also have a faculty sponsor at SLU.
- Students must submit a completed Capstone form and proposal detailing their project with the signature of their faculty sponsor to the Honors Program by December 1 for projects beginning in the spring semester and May 1 for projects beginning in the fall semester.
- Final projects must be received or presented by the first day of finals during the semester for which students are enrolled to receive Honors credit.

HONORS CAPSTONE PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Students must complete each of these steps at least one semester before starting their Honors Capstone, although students are encouraged to begin making plans as early as possible to ensure the proper support and resources are available.

- Generate ideas for an Honors Capstone Project relevant to your major course of study.
- Research whether or not your major has a capstone requirement. The capstone might count as your Honors Capstone. One notable exception is the Business Capstone (BIZ4000) that is part of the Common Body of Knowledge core curriculum in the John Cook School of Business.
- Discuss your Honors Capstone ideas with a faculty member in your major area and confirm whether this individual will serve as your project sponsor.
- Meet with your Honors Academic Advisor to discuss the project.
- Complete the Honors Capstone proposal, including the form, project description, and faculty sponsor signature.
- Submit the Honors Capstone proposal to the Honors Program by December 1 for projects beginning in the spring semester and May 1 for fall projects.
- Enroll in HR4960: Honors Capstone.

Student Statement of Commitment:

I have read and understand the requirements for the Honors Capstone. I understand that the Honors Capstone is a requirement to complete the Honors Program. I must notify the Honors Program if my project changes or if I am unable to complete the project within the specified timeline. If I fail to fulfill the Honors Capstone requirement, I understand that I will receive an incomplete grade for the course until I finish the project.

Faculty Statement of Commitment:

I have read the student’s attached Capstone Proposal and it meets my approval as an Honors level project in my department. I agree to advise the student on the project described the proposal throughout the semester indicated, and agree to complete a final evaluation at the end of the semester.

| Signatures/Date | For Honors Program Use Only |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Student: _____ Date: _____ | Date Received: _____ |
| Faculty: _____ Date: _____ | Approval Signature: _____ |

| Student Information | |
|--|--------------------|
| Name | Banner ID # |
| Phone Number | Email |
| Major and Minor | Date of Graduation |
| Instructor Information | |
| Name | Email |
| Course information (if connected to a course) | |
| Course Number & Title (example: PSY 404-01: History of Psychology) | Credit Hours |
| Semester | Year |

Project Description:

Please type your responses to each question on a separate piece of paper, and number your responses. Project descriptions should be thoroughly detailed but not exceed 2-3 pages. Be sure to include your name and Banner ID on the project description and attach it to this form.

- What specific topic(s) will you address? If appropriate to your field, please state a specific research question.
- What type of research or practical work will you complete? How much time will you spend on this?
- How does this project contribute to your overall course of study?
- What contributions will this project make to your field?
- List relevant project deadlines (e.g., meetings with faculty sponsor, rough draft submission, etc.).
- Is this Capstone attached to a class or major requirement? If so, how will your project be distinguished as an Honors capstone (i.e. how will you go above and beyond the non-honors requirements)?
- Indicate length of final written work or equivalent measure for final product for other project types.

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