

# SLA Capstone Guidelines

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## *1. What should be a Capstone experience?*

A capstone experience should integrate, synthesize, and apply knowledge developed throughout the student's major or degree program. The aim of a capstone experience is to have students apply and expand their knowledge through a number of academic or research/creative initiatives. The capstone experience should allow students to connect and bring together the knowledge and experiences that they obtained through the courses they have taken to satisfy the requirements for their major. Themes that departments could emphasize in their capstone experience:

- Integration
- Reflection
- Culmination
- Transition

## *2. What should be the goals of a capstone experience?*

- Integrate and synthesize knowledge within the academic major
- Enhance and expand students' knowledge in their respective discipline
- Promote connections between general education and the academic major
- Promote lifelong learning
- Foster critical thinking skills
- Improve career preparation and facilitate transition from academic to professional life (i.e., prepare students to enter graduate school or the workforce)

## *3. What kinds of activities (courses, projects, etc.) should constitute a capstone experience?*

(Potential capstone experiences):

- Honors Thesis
- Capstone Course
  - Courses that provide methods training in preparation for post-graduate study.
  - Courses that prepare students for successful careers in their chosen field.
- Senior Seminar
- Independent Research
- Practicum
- Internships
- Public performance or exhibition
- Service learning projects (should include both service and academic components)