Capstone

The capstone experience engages students with a significant theme, issue, topic, or problem. The capstone requires the development of a substantial oral, written, creative or applied final project that integrates disciplinary learning with general education and the perspectives of other disciplines. As the concluding experience, the capstone provides opportunities for students to think about how their education at USM, especially in the major, informs their future academic, professional and personal lives. Prerequisite: Ethical Inquiry, Social Responsibility, and Citizenship, and as determined by offering department.

Learning Outcomes:

Students completing the capstone will

1. Draw on the specialized knowledge of the major to articulate a significant theme, topic, issue or problem;

2. Design and generate a significant oral, written, creative or applied final project;

3. Collaborate or consult with others to research, create or discuss solutions or approaches to the project;

4. Analyze, apply, and integrate multiple sources of information and specialized perspectives to complete the project;

5. Draw on learning in general education and other courses to reflect on and critically interrogate learning within the capstone and the major.

Course characteristics:

1. Where appropriate, capstones will include co-curricular learning. Ideally this will include experiential learning opportunities such as internships, service learning, field work, practica, action research, public performance, presentation, or exhibition, etc.

2. Capstones reintroduce the 5 goals of general education at USM and help students accomplish them.

3. Capstones should provide opportunities for students to think about how their education at USM, especially in the major, informs their future academic, professional and personal lives.