

Capstone Requirement Information

Here is the information in the UWF catalog concerning the Capstone Requirement for all majors in Philosophy and Religious Studies:

“During their senior year of study, and with the assistance of their advisor, each student will officially designate one of their Major Courses their Senior Capstone Course. Embedded within that course will be an additional research project, as well as exit interviews and surveys. At the beginning of that course, it is the student’s responsibility to submit to the Department Chairperson a “Senior Capstone Experience Proposal” (signed by the Instructor of the Senior Capstone Course and the student’s advisor). This will specify the additional research project to be performed within the course, and at the completion of which, this degree requirement will be met. The design of the senior capstone project will give the student an opportunity to showcase academic accomplishments in a unified format through the production of a substantial research project. Exemplary projects will be submitted to showcase opportunities on and off campus.”

The Capstone Project is intended to be one that integrates to some degree the coursework you have done in Philosophy & Religious Studies. This is the reason for the restriction to seniors, which is designed to guarantee that the student has sufficient familiarity with the field as a whole to produce a project that does exhibit some degree of integration of issues, approaches, and ideas.

The choice of the course in which to embed your project does not mean that the project must make use mainly of material pertaining to that particular course. For example, take a course such as Modern Philosophy. That course has connections with Medieval and Greek Philosophy by way of history and by way of ideas. It has connections Contemporary Philosophy by way of issues in epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. It has connections with Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophies of the East, and so on. A student using Modern Philosophy for their Capstone Course may therefore write on just about any topic, approaching it from multiple perspectives, including that of Modern Philosophy. Pick any major course in Philosophy and/or Religious Studies and you will find a wealth of connections with other courses. Thus the goal of integration of a variety of course material is easily achieved, and the pressure to choose the “right” course in which to embed your Capstone Project is to some degree relieved.

It is important to start thinking early about where your interests lie. Start talking to your advisor and other faculty about possible projects. In this way, when the time comes to actually do the Capstone Requirement, you will be able to hit the ground running. Below you will find a timetable for Capstone Projects that demonstrates the expectations to which you should conform during the semester in which you undertake the project. It is particularly important for graduating seniors

to pay close attention to this timetable to ensure all graduation requirements are met.

Timetable for Capstone Projects

1. By the end of second week of classes, speak to your instructor about your interest using that course for your Capstone Project. If the instructor accepts, fill out and submit the Capstone Declaration form in office declaring project and topic area(s).
2. By the end of fourth week of classes, speak to your instructor again and deliver a bibliography of books/articles to be read.
3. By the end of seventh week of classes, speak to your instructor again and deliver an abstract or outline detailing your specific plan for project.
4. By the end of tenth week, speak to your instructor again and deliver a rough draft of your project. The instructor will return draft in a timely manner, with comments, noting areas for improvement.
5. By end of Dead Week, speak to your instructor again and deliver your final draft.
6. After evaluating the final draft, your instructor will fill out a Capstone Completion Form in the Department office and submit it. Shortly thereafter the requirement will be ticked off on your degree audit and the requirement will be complete.