

Resolution #4, Capstone Requirement

**University of Delaware Faculty Senate
Resolution on a Capstone Requirement**

WHEREAS, the faculty of the University of Delaware have affirmed the importance of a robust program of general education through their unanimous support of the November 3, 2014 “Resolution on General Education,” and

WHEREAS, the Task Force on General Education has recommended that a capstone experience be part of the education of every student at the university, and

WHEREAS, and in its March 13, 2000 meeting the Faculty Senate “endorsed in principle...major components of the General Education Program,” including a “Capstone Experience which integrates the undergraduate experience such as a senior seminar, group project, or similar experience,” and

WHEREAS, The University of Delaware’s Periodic Review Report (2006) to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education stated that “Capstone experiences will be part of the education of all undergraduates by 2008,” be it

RESOLVED, that Faculty Senate directs each department or program responsible for administering undergraduate majors to include a capstone experience as a requirement for the major for all students matriculating in academic year 2017, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Senate reviews and approves all proposed capstone experiences according to the guidelines laid out in the attached document.

Guidelines for the Review of the Capstone Experience

In reviewing and approving proposed Capstone Experiences for degree programs, the Undergraduate Studies Committee is directed to use the following criteria.

A Capstone Experience will require students to engage in explorations in which the outcomes are unknown, and/or to engage in self-assessment, reflection, and analysis that prepares them for future success. These experiences should occur during the senior year or near the end of the program of study and must have a set of learning goals that are well-communicated to students. These learning goals should support some or all of the Objectives of General Education as established by the Faculty Senate on November 3, 2014. In all possible regards, the Capstone Experience should be an expression of the totality of a student’s growth, development, and learning as an undergraduate. If the Capstone experience is primarily course based (vs. internship, research, etc.) it is recommended that wherever possible, the course include high impact practices such as service learning and problem based learning. Each capstone requirement will be a

minimum of a one (1) credit, credit-bearing course. A Capstone Experience may be solely based within the discipline or be interdisciplinary in nature.

The committee should view the following as exemplars of successful capstone experiences:

- (1) Honors Thesis/Senior Research
- (2) Course-Based Research
- (3) Professional Practicum and Internships
- (4) Design Projects
- (5) Programmatic ePortfolios
- (6) Senior-level Seminars
- (7) Field Experiences
- (8) Appropriately defined classroom courses