

# Recommendation for the Capstone Experience requirement

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The purpose of the *capstone experience* is for students to demonstrate their proficiency in the methods and in the modes of communication of the discipline in which they have majored. This proficiency is demonstrated through the creation and/or performance of a piece of advanced work in the major. This end-product of the capstone experience is peer-reviewed so that other students in the major will reflect on what constitutes acceptable, good, and excellent work at this point in their careers. Furthermore, this advanced work should be shared with the Macalester community through public presentations and performances, providing an opportunity for celebrating the range of scholarly achievements a Macalester education generates.

The capstone experience is the final stage in the developmental sequence within the major and as such should represent a culmination of the learning process within the major. However, this does not preclude the possibility that some or even most of it may occur before the senior year.

Specific requirements for the capstone experience and how it is to be fulfilled are to be determined by each department or interdepartmental major, subject to the guidelines given below and to approval by EPAG. For a student pursuing an individually designed interdepartmental major (IDIM), a description of how the capstone experience is to be completed must be part of the initial proposal for the IDIM.

## Guidelines for Capstone Experience

1. The department or interdepartmental major may choose to place the capstone requirement within the context of a seminar, specific courses, an independent or honors project, or any combination of these.
2. The capstone experience must lead to the creation of a piece of advanced work appropriate to the discipline. This end-product could be a synthesis of research literature, an original creation, a paper that presents original research, a performance, or a presentation of original work.
3. The nature of and the weight given to the peer-review process is at the discretion of the department or interdepartmental major. Thus, for example, review might be restricted to a small number of students within a senior seminar, or all majors in this discipline might participate in the peer-review process. The peer-review process should be accompanied by instruction in what to look for and how to give constructive feedback.
4. The results of the capstone experience should be made available to the Macalester community, ideally through public presentations and performances. How these works are disseminated is left to the discretion of the department or interdepartmental major.