

Capstone Experience Requirement

Rationale

The purpose of the *capstone experience* is for students to demonstrate their proficiency in the methods and modes of communication of the discipline or interdiscipline in which they have majored. Proficiency is demonstrated through the creation or performance advanced work. In addition to receiving faculty evaluation and response, the advanced project is peer-reviewed so that all students in the major are encouraged to reflect on what constitutes acceptable, good, and excellent work at this point in their academic lives. Furthermore, the advanced work should be shared with the Macalester community through public presentations and performances, thereby providing opportunities for celebrating the range of scholarly achievements engendered by a Macalester education.

Motion: EPAG moves that the Faculty endorse the refined description (statement, approval guidelines) of the Capstone Experience Requirement as follows:

Capstone Experience Requirement: *A course or advanced academic experience that represents a culmination of the learning process within the major.*

Course/Experience Approval Guidelines

Specific requirements for the capstone experience 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 approved as part of the IDIM proposal.

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. While the capstone experience is to represent the final stage in the developmental sequence of the major, this does not preclude the possibility that some, or even most of the experience may occur prior to the senior year.
2. The capstone experience must lead to peer-reviewed advanced work appropriate to the discipline/interdiscipline. This could be a paper synthesizing contemporary theory/research, a work of public scholarship, a paper that presents original research, a recital or creation of an original written, visual or performative work.
3. The nature of, and 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 how to evaluate peer colleagues' work and how to give constructive feedback.
4. The culminating works 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.