

Capstone Opportunities

COM 495 - Communication Exploration

As a culminating experience, students will have the opportunity to design, develop and in some cases implement a communication plan for a given organization or project. Through this process students will have the opportunity to explore how the communication skills and knowledge acquired through their program of study can be used in their chosen field. Students will analyze the communication issues or problems and develop a solution that is grounded in best practices and credible data from the field. Student can opt to work as part of the course team or independently. The independent option may include the opportunity for internship if approved by the course instructor in advance. At the conclusion of the course, students will present findings and lessons learned as part of a comprehensive report and oral presentation. Capstone Course. Prerequisites: SOC 220, SOC 315, COM 310, COM 320.

CUL 462 - Capstone Kitchen and Menu Management

This course is the second in a series of culminating courses designed to give students the opportunity to demonstrate that they have obtained the goals of the program. This final course will ask students to demonstrate their culinary techniques, aesthetic appreciation, research, management, and leadership abilities. Students will design and execute all of the aspects of managing a conceptual restaurant. Students will be required to rotate through all positions required to operate this restaurant. During their Executive Chef rotation students will create a menu, order food supplies, develop a budgetary proposal, and assign duties pertaining to food production and front of house service. Students will also implement the research design developed in their Research and Planning Seminar. At the completion of the Executive Chef rotation students will prepare and defend a portfolio which will include a complete research report. In combination with CUL 461, this course satisfies the Capstone/Culminating experience requirement. Prerequisite: CUL 461: Culinary Research and Planning Seminar or SOC 460: Capstone Research Methods.

FOR 462 - Forestry Capstone Project

The Forestry Capstone Project is designed to be a culminating endeavor based upon student course work, reading, interests and experience. Through the application of principles, theories and methods learned, students analyze, synthesize and evaluate information. The project provides a representative sample of student work that may be used to assess student learning. Individually, students will work to complete an applied research project developed during the Forestry Capstone Planning Seminar. Examples of projects include: forest stewardship plans, ecological research studies, and timber harvest plans with implementation. Students will work alone under the supervision of a mentor toward the established standards for successful completion of the Forestry Capstone Project. Students are required to prepare a substantial written report demonstrating the students' project focus as well as the integration of their work. Students are also required to prepare an oral presentation (1 hour lecture plus significant outside of class work). Prerequisites: FOR 461: Forestry Capstone Project Planning Seminar and senior standing.

FWS 470 - Wildlife Management

This advanced course prepares students to manage wildlife as natural resource by requiring students to apply their knowledge about wildlife biology, issues, and management in order to develop wildlife management plans. Creation of the management plan finalizes the Fisheries and Wildlife Science program by demonstrating mastery of both general education and program goals. Much of the course is based on historical and current case studies on the effects of food, habitat, predation, and diseases on wildlife populations. Students evaluate management policies and protocols including sociocultural and economic impacts. Prerequisites: FWS 320 Techniques in Wildlife Mgt and (BIO 363 Mammology or BIO 364 Ornithology or BIO 366 Herpetology). Senior Status is required.

HOS 462 - Hospitality Business Simulation

The Paul Smith's College capstone experience allows students to finalize their Paul Smith's education by giving students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the general education core and programmatic learning objectives. Students apply skills, methodologies and knowledge learned during their courses of study, building on this undergraduate learning experience as they evaluate their readiness for the next stage in their professional development. Prerequisite(s): HOS 210: Hotel Accounting, HOS 331: Hospitality Futures, HOS 350: Field Studies in Hospitality AND completion of 3 courses from the Customer Relations Cluster. Spring semester.

MGT 490/Lecture/01 - Entrepreneurship Capstone | Credits 3.00

Through this culminating experience, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate the critical thinking and synthesis skills necessary to integrate college educational goals with business related learning objectives. Building on the process developed in Applications in Entrepreneurship, students will have the opportunity to execute independently a research-based and/or practitioner focused project. For a given situation in a community, students will analyze the environmental and demographic factors, develop a needs assessment, and make recommendations for an action plan to address a specific problem, issue, or concern. Prerequisite: Senior Status and MGT 360 Application in Entrepreneurship and SOC 220 Social Research. Fall and Spring semesters.

NRS 495 - Integrated Natural Resource Management |

Integrated natural resource management (INRM) is an interdisciplinary, collaborative, and adaptive approach used to assess environmental concerns and to make recommendations for management of humans and natural environments to meet conservation goals, restore ecological integrity and sustainability, and protect human health. Students are given a natural resource problem or environmental issue and use an INRM approach to find a solution. Students must integrate relevant environmental and social-cultural information to assess the problem, and develop either a management plan for a given landscape unit or watershed, or produce a scientific report with management implications or recommendations. Other outcomes include presentations in an open forum. Students will have the opportunity to develop collaboration and team management skills through consensus building, planning, project execution and reporting. Prerequisites: BIO 210 or FOR 310, MAT 210, Senior Status.

REC 440 - Recreation Theory and Practice Capstone

This course entails a comprehensive approach to addressing recreation issues, problems and/or concerns in which students develop research-based recommendations for program management and/or delivery in order to meet a stakeholder's goals in the realm of recreation practice. Students will discuss and apply philosophical and ethical values as they assess recreation program decision making and effectiveness in consideration of current theoretical and applied issues in the recreation professions. In the applied element of the course, students will develop a research-based solution to a specific recreation concern or opportunity at the campus visitor interpretive center that requires the application of these principles. Students must integrate ecological and social-cultural information relevant to the interpretive center's concerns and opportunities and ultimately develop a program provision and management plan designed to meet the programmatic goals defined by interpretive center's administrative team. Working collaboratively, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate team management, consensus building, planning, and reporting. Students will also define a philosophical statement that articulates career goals and action plan. Prerequisites: REC 240: Outdoor Education Program Design + Planning, Senior Status.

SOC 462/Lecture/01 - Capstone Project | Credits 3.00

The Capstone Independent Project is designed to be a culminating endeavor based upon student's coursework, reading, interests and experience. Through the application of principles, theories and methods learned, students analyze, synthesize and evaluate information. The Project provides a representative sample of a student's work that may be used to assess student learning. Individually, students will work independently on their projects developed during the Capstone Project Planning Seminar (SOC 461), under the supervision of a mentor. Students are responsible for satisfying the established standards for successful completion of the Capstone Project, which include a substantial written report and an oral presentation. The course is offered fall and spring semesters and may be designated an honors course. (1 hour lecture and independent time). Prerequisites: Capstone Project Planning Seminar (SOC 461) and senior standing.

SUS 496 - Sustainability Capstone

This interdisciplinary capstone is designed to be a culminating experience for students interested in addressing the need for a more sustainable society. Students will examine the ecological, cultural, and social dimensions of a specific community or region, focusing on sustainability issues such as food security, renewable energy, and conservation, sense of place, lost arts/creative arts, cultural traditions, narratives, and community resiliency. The instructor will provide an overarching research question; however, students will develop their own sub-questions that will serve as the basis for independent inquiry. Once students have completed their independent inquiry, they will work as a group to link and synthesize their findings as applied to the original research question or issue. Capstone. Prerequisites: SOC 220 Social Research or MAT 210 Statistics and ENV 455 Sustainable Development or EST 320 Global Environmental Studies Seminar.