

Capstone Project Guidelines

Definition:

A capstone project is a constructive work in which students demonstrate integration, particularly with an eye toward implications for some form of ministry. A capstone project should be “integrating” in at least one of the following four ways:

- (1) Cross-disciplinary (across theological disciplines)
- (2) Interdisciplinary (between theology and other human sciences, natural sciences, literature, the fine arts, or any other field usually considered to be outside the central purview of theological study)
- (3) Intellectual-personal (assimilating frameworks gained from theological study, the student’s personal beliefs, social location and practices, or self-perception)
- (4) Theory-practice

A capstone project may take a variety of forms including but not limited to the following: an Essay; a sermon or series of sermons; a unit of curriculum; a website; a drama; a work of art; a dance production; or a video series posted on the internet. The course catalogue will indicate courses that are eligible to meet this requirement.

Procedure:

Academic departments determine which courses will be eligible to meet this requirement. The eligible courses will be listed in the catalog. Students doing a senior thesis may be eligible to meet this requirement through the senior thesis if the supervising faculty member so approves.

In order to fulfill this requirement, a capstone project must:

- Be developed and submitted in one course (or as part of a senior thesis with approval from supervising faculty member) during the final year of a masters level degree program.
- Have approval by the faculty member teaching the course in which the project will be submitted. The faculty member will specify length and format of the project in the course syllabus.
- Demonstrate integration in one of the four ways described above, drawing relatively equally from the domains of knowledge being integrated.
- Include a 1-2 page statement that indicates how the student sees the project as an exercise in integration.
- Receive a passing grade (“D-/D/D+” or higher) as indicated by the faculty member to the Registrar’s Office.

Assessment:

Capstone projects are assessed by the primary instructor of the course within which this option is offered. Faculty will grade the paper as they would normally do for the course in question, but for Capstone projects faculty will fill out an additional short “Evaluation Form for Capstone Project.” This both provides feedback to the student and also facilitates the Curriculum Assessment Committee’s analysis of selected capstone projects on an annual basis.