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First National Survey of Senior Seminars/Capstone Courses
National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students In Transition
University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

1. Name of institution _____

2. City _____ 3. State _____ 4. Zip Code _____

Your name _____ Title _____

Department address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

5. What is the approximate undergraduate enrollment at your institution? _____

6. What is the approximate number of students with senior classification at your institution? _____

7. Does your institution or do any of its constituent units offer one or more senior seminar/capstone courses?

Yes

No

***If your institution does not currently offer a senior seminar or capstone course, please disregard the remaining questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage paid envelope.
Thank you for your response.***

8. If you responded "Yes" to question #7, please indicate which of the following type(s) best describe(s) your senior seminar(s)/capstone course(s). If possible, attach a current sample syllabus or course description with the returned survey.

a. Interdisciplinary capstone course

b. Discipline- or department-based capstone course

c. Career planning course

d. Transition course focusing on preparation for work, graduate school, life choice, life skills, or life after college

e. Other (please describe): _____

If your institution offers more than one type of senior seminar or capstone course, please answer the remaining questions for one type only. Feel free to copy this instrument as necessary to provide a survey response for each senior seminar/capstone course offered on your campus.

9. Choose one of the five senior seminar/capstone course types indicated in question #8 and use that type as the basis for answering the remaining questions on this survey. Please mark below the type for which you have chosen to respond.

I am answering the remaining questions for the following course type:

- a b c d e

10. Our evidence to date indicates that senior seminars/capstone courses are most commonly designed to meet one or more of the following goals. Please NUMBER, in order of importance (1=most important), which goals, if any, apply to your course. **Please NUMBER only those goals which are clearly relevant to the course.**

- ___ a. Promoting the coherence and relevance of general education.
- ___ b. Promoting integration and connections between general education and the academic major.
- ___ c. Fostering integration and synthesis within the academic major.
- ___ d. Promoting integration and connections between the academic major and work world.
- ___ e. Explicitly and intentionally developing important student skills, competencies, and perspectives which are tacitly or incidentally developed in the college curriculum (e.g., leadership skills).
- ___ f. Enhancing awareness of and support for the key personal adjustments encountered by seniors during their transition from college to post-college life.
- ___ g. Improving seniors' career preparation and pre-professional development.
- ___ h. Enhancing seniors' preparation and prospects for postgraduate education.
- ___ i. Promoting effective life planning and decision making with respect to issues that will be encountered in adult life after college.
- ___ j. Other (Please describe): _____
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11. Who teaches the course? Please check all that apply.

- a. Faculty
- b. College/university career center professionals
- c. Other student affairs professionals
- d. Community/workplace professionals
- e. Graduate students
- f. Other (please identify): _____

12. Is the course team taught? Yes No

13. What is the maximum section size for your senior seminar/capstone course? _____

14. How is the course graded? Pass/Fail Letter grade

15. Do students receive academic credit for the course? Yes No

16. If yes, how many credit hours? _____ (PLEASE CIRCLE: quarter / semester / other hours)

17. This credit is treated as a(n):

- a. core requirement
- b. elective
- c. major requirement
- d. general education requirement
- e. other (please identify): _____

18. If your course is an elective, and if your institution is coeducational, please give us an approximate gender ratio for the student enrollment patterns. _____
male : female

19. Over what length of time is the senior seminar/capstone course offered? _____
(example: six weeks, one semester)

20. What campus unit administers the course? _____

21. Does the course include any of the following components? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Thesis | <input type="checkbox"/> k. Educational travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Final exam | <input type="checkbox"/> l. Use of career center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Major project | <input type="checkbox"/> m. Alumni involvement/networking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Portfolio development | <input type="checkbox"/> n. Explicit consideration of graduate school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e. Oral presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> o. Leadership training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f. Group project | <input type="checkbox"/> p. Other culminating project or activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g. Internship | (please explain): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> h. Work shadowing | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> i. Employment (remunerative, non-remunerative) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> j. Service learning/community service | _____ |

22. Which students are required to take the course? All Some None

If some, please specify: _____

23. How many years has the senior seminar/capstone course been in existence at your institution? _____

24. Is the course evaluated by any constituent group (i.e., students, faculty, administrators)? Yes No

If yes, briefly describe the evaluation method. _____

25. Is the course tied to comprehensive institutional assessment? Yes No

If yes, please describe. _____

Thank you for your response. Please return this survey in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

***If you have questions about this survey, please call or write the National Resource Center,
1629 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208. Phone: 803-777-6029 FAX: 803-777-4699
E-mail: carriew@gwm.sc.edu***