

Appendix B: Survey Instrument

2011 National Survey of Senior Capstone Experiences

This survey is dedicated to gathering information regarding senior capstone experiences. The survey should take 15-25 minutes to complete. You may exit the survey at any time and return and your responses will be saved. If you would like a copy of your responses, you will need to print each page of your survey before exiting. Your responses are important to us. As such, we please ask for your response by September 5, 2011. Thank you for your participation.

Q1: Please provide the following background information

- Full name of institution
- City
- State
- Respondent's name
- Respondent's title
- Respondent's e-mail address

Q2: Mark the appropriate category for your institution

- Four-year institution
- Two-year institution (Go to Q57)

Q3: Mark the appropriate category for your institution

- Public
- Private not-for-profit
- Private for-profit

Q4: Is your college or university a special-serving institution?

- Yes, Hispanic Serving Institution
- Yes, Historically Black College or University
- Yes, Tribal College
- Yes, Women's College
- Yes, other (please specify)
- No

Q5: What is the approximate number of enrolled seniors (senior status is typically defined by credit-hours obtained) at your institution during the academic year 2010-2011?

- Less than 500
- 501-1,000
- 1,001-1,500
- 1,501-2,000
- 2,001-2,500
- 2,501-3,000
- 3,001-3,500
- 3,501-4,000
- 4,001-5,000
- More than 5,000

The senior capstone experience is defined as a culminating course or project that is discipline-based or interdisciplinary; the course and/or experience concludes during the final year of study and is reserved for senior students (senior status is typically defined by credit-hours obtained).

- *Discipline-based capstone courses enroll seniors from the same discipline/major.*
- *Interdisciplinary capstone courses are not dependent on a specific discipline and are inclusive of more than one discipline/major.*
- *Project-based experiences are not dependent on a specific discipline or course and typically have a primary project as an end-product to the experience (e.g., internship, senior thesis).*

Q6: Did your institution—at any department or division-level—offer one or more senior capstone experience(s) during the 2010-2011 academic year?

- Yes
- No (Go to Q52)
- I don't know. (Go to Q52)

Q7: What is the approximate percentage of seniors who enrolled/participated in a senior capstone experience(s) on your campus?

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%
- 20%-29%
- 30%-39%
- 40%-49%
- 50%-59%
- 60%-69%
- 70%-79%
- 80%-89%
- 90%-99%
- 100%
- I don't know.

Q8: Approximately how many years has a senior capstone experience(s) been offered on your campus?

- 1 year or less
- 2 years
- 3-10 years
- More than 10 years

Q9: Select the senior capstone experience(s) that best describes the course/project that exist on your campus. (Check all that apply.)

- Discipline-based capstone course
- Interdisciplinary capstone course
- Comprehensive exam
- Exhibition of performing, musical, or visual arts
- Internship
- Senior thesis/undergraduate research paper
- Other (please specify)

Q10: If you offered more than one senior capstone experience, select the one with the highest total senior enrollment on your campus during the 2010-2011 academic year.

- Discipline-based capstone course
- Interdisciplinary capstone course
- Comprehensive exam
- Exhibition of performing, musical, or visual arts
- Internship
- Senior thesis/undergraduate research paper
- Other (please specify)

Display if Q10='Discipline-based capstone course'

Q11: What discipline composes the discipline-based capstone course with the highest total senior enrollment on your campus?

- Applied science (e.g., education, engineering, journalism)
- Business
- Formal sciences (e.g., computer sciences, mathematics)
- Humanities (e.g., history, language arts, literature)
- Law
- Natural sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics)
- Performing arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance)
- Pre-medicine
- Social sciences (e.g., political science, psychology, sociology)
- Other (please specify)

Display if Q10=Interdisciplinary capstone course'

Q12: What disciplines compose the senior capstone course or experience with the highest total senior enrollment on your campus? (Check all that apply)

- Applied science (e.g., education, engineering, journalism)
- Business
- Formal sciences (e.g., computer sciences, mathematics)
- Humanities (e.g., history, language arts, literature)
- Law
- Natural sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics)
- Performing arts (e.g., visual arts, music, dance)
- Pre-medicine
- Social sciences (e.g., political science, psychology, sociology)
- Other (please specify)

Display if Q10='Comprehensive exam' OR Q10='Exhibition of performing, musical, or visual arts' OR Q10='Internship' OR Q10='Senior thesis/undergraduate research paper' OR Q10='Other (please specify)'

Q13: You selected a senior capstone project as your senior capstone experience with the highest total senior enrollment on your campus during the 2010-2011 academic year. Does this senior capstone project have a course component (i.e., are students required to attend an instructor-led class as part of the project)?

- Yes
- No (Go to Q55)

Please answer the remaining questions for the senior capstone course or experience you selected as the highest total senior enrollment during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Q14: Select the three most important course objectives for the senior capstone course or experience

- Ability to conduct scholarly research
- Ability to perform independently
- Appreciation of discipline(s)
- Career preparation
- Certification preparation
- Preparation into graduate school
- Increase critical thinking/analytical skills/problem solving skills
- Increase connections with peers
- Increase satisfaction with academic discipline
- Increase satisfaction with institution
- Increase satisfaction with instructor
- Develop out-of-class student/instructor interaction(s)
- Life skills

- Persistence to graduation
- Professional development (e.g., teamwork, leadership)
- Proficiency in oral communication
- Proficiency in written communication
- Promote use of campus services
- Other (please specify)

Q15: Select the three most important topics that compose the content of the senior capstone course or experience

- Career development
- Certification readiness
- Conducting scholarly research
- Critical thinking/analytical skills/problem solving skills
- Discipline-specific topic
- Diversity issues
- Engaged alumni/alumni opportunities
- Ethical issues
- Financial literacy
- Graduate school application process
- Leadership skills
- Oral communication skills
- Relationship skills
- Teamwork/group work
- Technology skills
- Writing skills
- Other (please specify)

Q16: Please select the final component/end-product that is required to complete the senior capstone course or experience (Check all that apply)

- Certification within career
- Comprehensive exam
- Exhibit of art/music performance/recital
- Final examination
- Final presentation
- Final project
- Graduate school application
- Portfolio – comprehensive curricular (e.g., ePortfolio)
- Résumé
- Undergraduate research paper/thesis
- No final component/end-product
- Other (please specify)

Q17: Please indicate which of the following practices are incorporated into the senior capstone course or experience (Check all that apply)

- Communication of high expectations
- Cooperative learning
- Course is academically challenging
- Diversity experiences
- Emphasis on time on task and submitting work
- Instructor encouragement of active learning
- Integrative learning (between courses or between coursework and life)
- Quality of classroom interactions with instructor
- Quality of nonclassroom interactions with instructor
- Positive peer interactions
- Prompt feedback from instructor
- Use of higher-order exams and assignments
- Other (please specify)

Q18: Which students, by category, are required to take the senior capstone course or experience? (Check all that apply)

- Certain majors
- First-generation students
- Honors students
- International students
- Learning community participants
- Nontraditional aged students
- Student athletes
- Students within specific disciplines
- Transfer students
- None are required to take it.
- All seniors are required to take it.
- Other (please specify)

Q19: What is the approximate class size of each senior capstone course or experience section?

- 10 students or fewer
- 11-15
- 16-19
- 20-24
- 25-30
- More than 30 (please indicate)

Q20: Please indicate the approximate number of sections of this senior capstone course or experience that were offered during the 2010-2011 academic year

- 1-10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71-80
- 81-90
- 91-100
- Over 100

Q21: What is the typical length of a section of the senior capstone course or experience?

- Half a semester
- One quarter
- One semester
- One year
- Other (please specify)

Q22: How is the senior capstone course or experience graded?

- No grade
- Pass/fail
- Letter grade
- Other (please specify)

Q23: Does the senior capstone course or experience carry academic credit?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q23='Yes'

Q24: How many credits does the senior capstone course or experience carry?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

Display if Q23='Yes'

Q25: How is the senior capstone course or experience credit applied? (Check all that apply)

- As an elective
- Toward general education requirements
- Toward major requirements
- Other (please specify)

Q26: How many total classroom contact hours are there per week in the senior capstone course or experience?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

Q27: Are any sections of the senior capstone course/experience linked to one or more other courses?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Q28: Do any sections incorporate online components?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q28='Yes'

Q29: Please describe the online components that are included in the course

Q30: Are there any online-only sections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q30='Yes'

Q31: Please indicate the approximate percentage of online-only sections.

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%
- 20%-29%

- 30%-39%
- 40%-49%
- 50%-59%
- 60%-69%
- 70%-79%
- 80%-89%
- 90%-99%
- 100%

Q32: Please list up to three elements or aspects of your senior capstone course or experience that you consider innovative or especially successful.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Q33: Who is the primary instructor of the senior capstone course or experience? (Check all that apply.)

- Academic affairs professionals
- Adjunct faculty
- Full-time, non-tenure-track faculty
- Graduate students
- Student affairs professionals
- Tenure-track faculty
- Undergraduate students
- Other (please specify)

Display if Q33='Undergraduate students'

Q34: If undergraduate students assist in the senior capstone course or experience, what is their role? (Check all that apply.)

- They teach independently.
- They teach as a part of a team.
- They assist the instructor, but do not teach.
- The role is determined by the instructor.
- Other (please specify)

Q35: Are any seniors intentionally placed in senior capstone course or experience sections taught by their academic advisors?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q35='Yes'

Q36: What is the approximate percentage of students placed in sections with their academic advisors?

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%
- 20%-29%
- 30%-39%
- 40%-49%
- 50%-59%
- 60%-69%
- 70%-79%
- 80%-89%
- 90%-99%
- 100%
- I don't know.

Q37: Indicate the approximate percentage of sections that are team taught.

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%
- 20%-29%
- 30%-39%
- 40%-49%
- 50%-59%
- 60%-69%
- 70%-79%
- 80%-89%
- 90%-99%
- 100%
- I don't know.
- No sections are team taught.

Q38: Is instructor training offered for senior capstone course or experience instructors?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q38='Yes'

Q39: Is instructor training required for senior capstone course or experience instructors?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Q40: How long is new instructor training?

- Half a day or less
- 1 day
- 2 days
- 3 days
- 4 days
- 1 week
- Other (please specify)

Q41: What campus unit directly administers the senior capstone course or experience?

- Academic affairs
- Academic department(s) (please list)
- Career center
- College or school (e.g., college of liberal arts)
- Office of alumni relations
- Senior program office
- Student affairs
- Other (please specify)

Q42: Is there a dean/director/coordinator of the senior capstone course or experience?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q42='Yes'

Q43 Does the dean/director/coordinator have another position on campus?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Q44: The dean/director/coordinator's other campus role is as a/an (Check all that apply)

- Academic affairs administrator
- Faculty member
- Student affairs administrator
- Other (please specify)

Q45: Has your senior capstone course or experience been formally assessed or evaluated since spring 2008?

- Yes
- No (Go to Q62)
- I don't know. (Go to Q62)

Display if Q45='Yes'

Q46: What type of assessment or evaluation was conducted on your senior capstone course or experience? (Check all that apply)

- Accreditation
- Analysis of institutional data (e.g., GPA, retention rates, persistence to graduation)
- Focus groups with instructors
- Focus groups with students
- Individual interviews with instructors
- Individual interviews with students
- Student course evaluation
- Survey instrument (national or local)

Display if Q46='Survey instrument (national or local)'

Q47: What type of survey instrument did your institution use to assess or evaluate the senior capstone course or experience (Check all that apply)

- A locally developed (i.e., home-grown or direct) survey
- A national survey (e.g., NSSE, CCSSE, CIRP, EBI)
- I don't know.

Display if Q47='A national survey (e.g., NSSE, CCSSE, CIRP, EBI)'

Q48: If you used a national survey, please identify the survey(s) (Check all that apply)

- Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) College Senior Survey
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education (WNS)
- Other (please specify)

Q49: Please describe any other types of assessment or evaluation that were conducted

Q50: Select three outcome(s) that were measured using the assessment(s) or evaluation(s) listed above

- Connection to the discipline(s)
- Connections with peers
- Critical thinking/analytical skills/problem solving skills
- Employment after college
- Entrance into graduate school
- Grade-point average
- Oral communication
- Out-of-class student-instructor interaction
- Persistence to graduation
- Satisfaction with campus services

- Satisfaction with institution
- Satisfaction with instructor
- Teamwork/group work
- Written communication
- Other (please specify)

Q51: Please describe the most significant findings from your assessment and evaluation of senior capstone course or experience outcomes

Display if Q6='No' or Q6='I don't know.'

Q52: If you did not administer a senior capstone experience on your campus during the prior academic year, please indicate the reason

- Lack of funding
- Lack of faculty/staff/administration buy-in
- Limited time
- Senior capstone experiences are not an institutional priority.
- Other (please specify)

Q53: If you did not administer a senior capstone experience on your campus during the prior academic year, does your institution plan to initiate one?

- Yes, in the next year
- Yes, in the next 2-4 years
- Yes, in the next 5 or more years
- No
- I don't know.

Q54: If your institution is planning to initiate a senior capstone experience, please indicate which capstone experience your institution is considering. (Check all that apply.)

- Discipline-based capstone course
- Interdisciplinary capstone course
- Comprehensive exam
- Exhibition of performing, musical, or visual arts
- Internship
- Senior thesis/undergraduate research paper
- Unknown
- Other (please specify)

Display if Q13='No'

Q55: You selected a senior capstone project with no course-component as your senior capstone experience with the highest total senior enrollment on your campus during the 2010-2011 academic year. Could you please describe your senior capstone project in greater detail (for example, is the project graded, do you establish any learning outcomes, do you assess or evaluate the project)?

Q56: May a National Resource Center research staff member contact you to discuss your senior capstone project?

- Yes
- No

Display if Q2='Two-year institution'

The capstone experience is defined as a culminating course or project that is discipline-based or interdisciplinary during the students' last year of study.

Q57: Did your institution-at any department or division-level-offer one or more capstone experience(s) during the 2010-2011 academic year?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Display if Q57='Yes'

Q58: Select the capstone experience(s) that best describes the course or project that exist on your campus (Check all that apply)

- Discipline-based capstone course
- Interdisciplinary capstone course
- Certification within career
- Comprehensive exam
- Exhibition of performing, musical, or visual arts
- Final presentation
- Internship
- Portfolio
- Preparation for transfer to four-year institution
- Senior thesis/undergraduate research paper
- Service learning/community service project
- Other (please specify)

Q59: What is the approximate percentage of students who enrolled/participated in a capstone experience(s) on your campus?

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%

- 20%-29%
- 30%-39%
- 40%-49%
- 50%-59%
- 60%-69%
- 70%-79%
- 80%-89%
- 90%-99%
- 100%
- I don't know.

Q60: Could you please describe your course or project in greater detail for the capstone experience with the highest total student enrollment during the 2010-2011 academic year (for example, is there a required course component, is the course or project graded, do you establish any learning outcomes, who instructs the course or project, do you assess or evaluate the course or project, etc.)?

Q61: May a National Resource Center research staff member contact you to discuss your capstone experience?

- Yes
- No

Q62: It is our practice to make available specific and general information gathered from this survey. In general, findings from the survey are reported in aggregate, but we may identify individual institutions that have agreed to allow their responses to be shared on request. Please select the appropriate response.

- You may share my survey responses.
- Please do not share my survey responses.