

Writing in the Senior Capstone

Strategies for Supporting Learning, Development, and Career Preparation

93 – 97

Percentage of institutions offering a senior seminar

The Senior Capstone

Primary Purpose

1. Synthesize fragmented knowledge into a unified whole
2. Serve as a rite of passage

Organization

- Adjunct course, offering structure and support for students completing independent project
- Student-led course, synthesizing disciplinary knowledge and/or applying it to current issues

Goals

- Critical-thinking and/or analytic or problem-solving skills
- Ability to conduct scholarly research
- Career preparation
- Professional development
- Proficiency in written communication

Types of Capstone Courses

- ◆ 84.7% offer discipline-based courses
Most common experience at nearly 60% of responding institutions
- ◆ 33.2% offer interdisciplinary courses
Most common experience at approximately 13% of responding institutions

References

Barefoot, B. O., Griffin, B. Q., & Koch, A. (2012). *Enhancing student success and retention throughout undergraduate education: A national survey*. Brevard, NC: John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education.

Masiello, L., & Skipper, T. L. (2013). *Writing in the senior capstone: Theory and practice*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition.

Padgett, R. D., & Kilgo, C. A. (2012). *2011 National Survey of Senior Capstone Experiences: Institution-level data on the culminating experience* (Research Reports on College Transitions No. 3). Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition.

Writing Assignments in Senior Seminars

Type of Assignment	Times Reported
Traditional academic research paper	13
Report of original research	11
Short, expository essays	8
Written responses to assigned readings	6
Peer review	6
Personal/reflective writing	5
Applied writing assignments	4
Career-related writing products	3
Informal writing assignments	2
Revision of an existing paper	2
Essay exam	2

Source: Masiello, L., & Skipper, T. L. (2013). Table 1.1, p. 9.



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