

# Bringing it All Together: Examining the Role of Capstone Courses in Cross-Disciplinary Academic Programs

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# Capstone Experiences

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An experience under supervision by a faculty member during which students synthesize and integrate previous learning experiences, drawing together philosophical, intellectual, conceptual, and application and practice considerations, demonstrating this through a created work.

(Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University, 1998; Gardner and Van der Veer, 1998; Kuh, 2008; McGill, 2012)

# Capstone Experiences

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- High Impact Educational Practice (Kuh, 2008)
- Important for Creating Connections across interdisciplinary curricula (Wagenaar, 1993; Hauhart and Grahe, 2010; Hauhart and Grahe, 2012)
- Potential for negative capstone experiences (McGill, 2012)

# Research Questions

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- Do capstone experiences enhance undergraduate students' ability to make cognitive connections across cross-disciplinary curriculum?
- Does self-perception of satisfaction with capstone experiences affect undergraduate student ability to make cognitive connections across an interdisciplinary minor curriculum?

# Methods

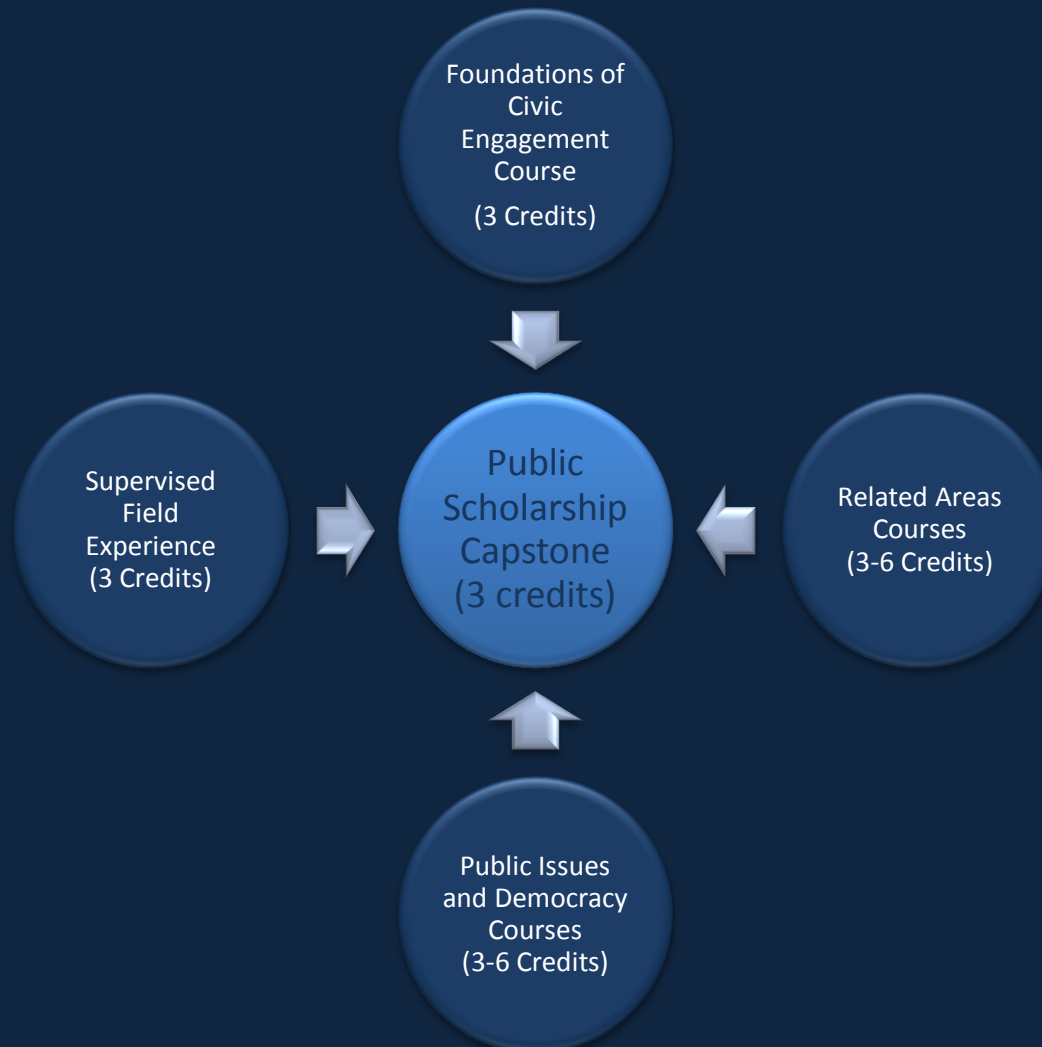
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- Case Study Approach (Yin, 2009)
- 5 cross-disciplinary academic programs
- Screening Survey
- In-depth, semi-structured interviews
- Analysis with NVIVO
  - Across all programs
  - Within academic programs
- Running a Pilot with one Academic Program

# Civic and Community Engagement Minor

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# References

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# Questions