**CLAS Capstone Definitions**

**CLAS Definition 1:** A course requiring students to synthesize the knowledge, principles, and theories presented across the curriculum of a particular discipline; and/or to complete an advanced project through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to a new setting and/or a complex problem.

**CLAS Definition 2:** (approved by CUSA in 2008): Dean Simpson asked the Committee to consider, with encouragement from the Board of Regents, increasing capstone courses in the College. Forty-six percent (46%) of 2007-08 graduates completed a capstone experience as it has been defined by CUSA in the past. CUSA’s definition of a capstone course is a course requiring students to synthesize the knowledge, principles, and theories presented across the curriculum of a particular discipline; and/or to complete an advanced project through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to a new setting and/or a complex problem.

**Definition as Stated in Performance Agreement with KBOR:** Capstone courses/experiences for seniors provide an opportunity to integrate the full scope of one’s undergraduate learning. They engage the student in self assessment, connect the content of courses taken with applied learning, and emphasize connections between the disciplines. Integrative learning is complex and often discipline-specific so most of the opportunities for participation in these courses/experiences will be within the major. Professional schools have nearly universal participation in capstone courses/experiences because these courses are normally associated with accreditation within the professions. Only the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is targeted in this performance indicator where many of the capstone experiences are independent studies in which a student works closely with a faculty member on a culminating project/experience. The 50 departments of the College represent 75% of the undergraduate student population. Plans are underway in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for a curricular change so more students will have a capstone experience. Since a course of study is set when a student enrolls, the full impact of the curricular change will not be seen for four years after the change is implemented. The modest increase in students graduating with a capstone course/experience for the three years covered by this agreement reflects the reality of the current curriculum.

**Examples of Capstones in CLAS:**

  This course provides a survey of modern behavioral science and its applications. It reviews the field's history; integrates its sub-disciplines; situates it within the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities; and compares and contrasts it with other perspectives. It covers recent advances in research, their implications for understanding human behavior, and their application to solving societal problems. And, it addresses the ethical implications of applied behavioral science. (Formerly HDFL/ PSYC 641.) Prerequisite: ABSC 100/101 or ABSC/HDFL 140, and ABSC/HDFL 304 or instructor permission. Eligibility: S Social Science (S)

- **AMS 550  American Studies (AMS) - Research Seminar in: ( 3 / H ) Fall 2010**
  A seminar exploring a specific American studies theme. A research paper or equivalent project is required. Prerequisite: AMS 360 (a grade of C or better is recommended) or consent of instructor. Cannot be taken concurrently with AMS 551, AMS 552 or AMS 553. Eligibility: H Humanities (H)

- **BIOL 599  Biology - Senior Seminar: ( 1 / N ) Fall 2010**
  A synthesis and discussion of current trends in a discipline or disciplines related to one of the degrees offered in the biological sciences. Emphasis is placed on providing seniors with an appreciation of the discipline's state-of-the-art and on developing skills for success in the next stage of a career in the biological sciences. Topics depend on the associated degree program. Prerequisite: Must be taken in the final year of a degree and students must have completed most of the course work required for one of the degrees in the biological sciences. Eligibility: N Natural Science (N)

- **DANC 550  Dance - Senior Project ( 3 ) Spring 2010**
  In-depth research project in dance theory or history, or choreography project involving the complete development and presentation of a dance idea. Prerequisite: Performance option: DANC 320, DANC 350, DANC 450, TH&F 220 or TH&F 224, and permission of the dance division. Research option: DANC 340, DANC 370, DANC 375, DANC 460, and permission of the
EVRN 615  Environmental Studies - Capstone Project (3 / N ) Spring 2010
The capstone project provides students with a broad-based, interdisciplinary educational experience and allows them to integrate and synthesize the knowledge they have gained in their environmental studies major. It rejoins the cohort that has separately pursued the BA/BGS and BS tracks and places them in situations in which they address real world environmental issues with a team approach and produce professionally meaningful analytical reports. Prerequisite: Junior standing; EVRN 320, EVRN 332, and EVRN 460. Restricted to declared Environmental Studies majors.
Eligibility: N Natural Science (N)

LA&S 490  Liberal Arts & Sciences - Internship Exploration (1-5 / U ) Summer 2010
This course provides credit for supervised practical experiences in an occupational area of interest. In addition to the work-related activity, students complete reading and writing assignments, participate in an on-line discussion and create a final portfolio of internship accomplishments. Hours of credit recorded (1-5) are based on number of hours at internship site and agreement of instructor. Credit hours will be assigned a letter grade. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.
Eligibility: U Undesignated elective (U)