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


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): ____________________________

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