Latin American Studies  
Capstone Project Description

A. What is a Capstone?

The Capstone is an academic project required for students to complete their degree in Latin American Studies (LAS). Students have the opportunity to address a topic of their interest using the skills and knowledge they have gained throughout their program of study.

Capstone Projects are intended to be intensive, active learning projects, requiring significant effort in the planning and implementation stages, as well as in the preparation of a final, rigorous written work. The final written work may be either a paper or a report, depending on the kind of Capstone Project the student has undertaken.

The written report should include the outcomes of the student's experience in addressing the topic identified in the proposal. Students must also submit any product that resulted from the project along with the Capstone Project report.

B. What are the different Capstone projects available at Loyola University New Orleans?

The most traditional Capstone Project is a 15-20 page long paper for a Latin American Studies course a student takes in his/her Junior or Senior year. The course must be at the 300 or 400 level.

Some students combine papers or research projects from their other major with the LAS capstone. In such a case, at least 50% of the content must be on Latin America, the Caribbean and/or Latinos/as. Students working on a joint project should get approval from all the programs or departments involved in the project. They will also need a research director from all the programs or departments.

Instead of a research paper, some students prefer to do a project that reflects a combination of disciplines, such as an Oral History Project or a Service Learning Project with both theoretical and reflection components. For these projects the student should follow the aforementioned guidelines for a written report.

C. What does a student have to do in order to register and complete a capstone?

1. The student has to identify a LAS professor to serve as Capstone Project Director (CPD). Any LAS full time professor may serve as CPD.

2. The student must prepare a Capstone project proposal. This proposal has to be approved by the CPD and the student’s LAS advisor.

3. To register for a Capstone the student needs an “Independent Study Registration Form,” available at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and at the Dean’s Office.
4. For registration purposes, the student must choose a clear but brief title of less than 27 characters so that his/her transcript reflects the goals and outcomes of the project. The student may use a second, longer title on the actual work.

5. Once registered, the student has one semester to finish his/hers Capstone Project.

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