

SAGES CAPSTONE FOR MUSIC MAJORS (MUHI 395A & B)

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Definition. The Music Capstone is focused on a major project, usually a senior recital with supporting document or a senior thesis. A project must have a substantial writing component and must include a public presentation. (For recitalists, this requirement is satisfied by the recital.) The written component should represent an original argument, beyond the scope of a typical term paper.

In MUHI 395A, offered for 2 credits in the fall, you will begin your research and complete a formal Capstone Prospectus consisting of a 5 – 6 page proposal followed by a detailed outline and annotated bibliography.

In MUHI 395B, offered for 1 credit in the spring, you will complete the written component of the project and deliver a public presentation.

Course structure. The class meets as a group at the beginning of each semester and occasionally throughout, especially during the spring while preparing the public presentations. Otherwise it consists of individual weekly tutorials with the instructor.

Public presentation. For non-recitalists, the public presentation will occur at a special “Capstone Day” offered at the end of juries in the Spring. This is a festive, celebratory event to which family and friends are invited. It consists of 20-minute PowerPoint presentations followed by a 10-minute Q & A. All students in the class (recitalists as well as non-recitalists are required to attend.

Is MUHI 395 required? Double majors and dual degree candidates may opt to take the Capstone in a department other than music. All other music majors must take MUHI 395. You must take the sequence in order (strictly enforced), usually in your senior year.

Early registration: Students who are planning to study abroad during their senior year must register for the full sequence in their junior year (no exceptions).

Applied instruction: Students planning to use a senior recital as their Capstone must be enrolled for 2 hours of applied music during both semesters of the Capstone registration. The performance component will be graded by the applied instructor. The senior recital may be substituted for the exit jury, in which case the student is responsible for obtaining three jury members and providing jury sheets.

Document length: The written component may range from approximately 30 – 35 pages for a supporting document to 40 – 50 pages for a senior thesis. (Exceptions may be made for senior theses involving a substantial experimental component.)

Prerequisites to MUHI 395A are MUHI 201 and 202. Students are urged to complete the department seminar and as many music history electives as possible before embarking upon a Capstone project, which represents the culmination and synthesis of the totality of your previous undergraduate study.

Senior Recital without Capstone credit. With the approval and support of the applied instructor, students may perform a senior recital outside the purview of the Capstone. They must register for 2 credits of applied music during the semesters before and during the recital. The Capstone instructor coordinates these stand-alone recitals as well as the Capstones.