

Department of Theatre and Dance Senior Capstone guidelines and criteria
THDA 4995 – Senior Capstone

4 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: Departmental consent, senior status

Description: The capstone course is a method of summative evaluation in which the student is given an opportunity in their final year of study to demonstrate integrated knowledge and growth in the major. With supervision of the department of theatre and dance faculty, each individual senior theatre student will create a substantial work.

Application must be approved.

A Capstone project is required for graduation by every BFA and BA in the department of Theatre and Dance at Austin Peay State University. The purpose of the senior capstone is for a graduating student to demonstrate knowledge of theatre, dance, musical theatre or design through research, dramaturgy or performance. The purpose continues with the utilization of theatrical skills in the mounting of a production/performance. The students' evaluation of their process and product will demonstrate their ability to think in a critical manner. The capstone will demand the student draw from all of their studies in the arts as well as their training in theatre, dance, musical theatre and or design.

Application must be submitted during student's Jr. year. The deadline is April 8, 2024 at 5pm and all materials should be sent via email to pickardd@apsu.edu.

BA – Scholarly project –

- A 20-25 page Research Paper – The student will write a 20-25 page paper on their approved topic that proposes a thesis and defends that thesis with citable works.
- A 15-minute Oral Presentation – The student will prepare and present on their approved topic to a small audience. The student will have 15 minutes to present their thesis and research findings, with a 10-minute Question and Answer session to follow.
 - The student will turn in all presentation notes with a source citation document to the Capstone Committee and through D2L.
- A Poster Presentation – The student will present a formal, research-based presentation on their approved topic. The Poster Presentation will provide a visual representation of your research through text, charts, graphs, and other visual aids. The Poster Presentation should allow viewers to read your research material at their leisure and to interact with you, asking questions about your methods and your findings.
 - The student will turn in the materials represented on the poster, and additional research material and methods used to create the poster with a source citation document.
- A Workshop – The student will present a 30- to 40-minute workshop utilizing the research completed on their approved topic. This workshop should be interactive and present a unique point of view on the subject.

- The student will turn in a bulleted list of presentation material, any handouts provided during the workshop, and a source citation document.
- A Lecture/Demonstration – The student will present a 15-25 minute lecture on their approved topic with an interactive demonstration to accompany the material. The lecture/demonstration should utilize visual aids, opportunities for questions, and demonstrations.
 - The student will turn in lecture talking points, all visual aids, demonstration guidelines prepared by the student, and a source citation document.

BFA - Production project w/written component – Examples may include but not limited to dance, musical or theatrical production, choreography, direction or design of a full production, are possible production projects.

Written portion required: MLA 10-15 pages

Outline

Process Journal – to include evidence of research, reading, rehearsals, progress, problems and strategies.

Self assessment

Citation page if appropriate

Bibliography

BFA Capstone students will have access, with permission, to selected departmental production items.

Please note; in lieu of a course fee or textbook, students will be responsible for any additional costs incurred by their proposed Capstone.

Department of Theatre and Dance

Senior Capstone Application

Name: _____ Graduation Semester/Year: _____

Academic

Advisor _____

Committee Members:

GPA _____ Degree: BA or BFA Major Concentration _____

Semester/Year of Capstone Registration: FALL _____

SPRING _____

(PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR CAPSTONE MUST BE COMPLETED THE SEMESTER IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED.)

Type of Capstone Project: Please consider the criteria listed on cover page

(Check one) _____ Research Paper (BA) _____ Poster Session (BA)

- Presentation (BA) Workshop (BA)
 Lecture/Demonstration (BA)
 Production w/written component (BFA)
 Collaborative w/written component

Please note that any student proposing a Collaborative Capstone project must submit separate, individual applications, which outlines the collaboration in detail and turn them in at the same time.

Proposal: Please attach your 1 page, type –written, Capstone proposal
 Proposals will either be accepted as proposed, accepted with revisions, or denied.

1. Title:
2. Overview:
3. Explain how this Capstone relates to your degree concentration
4. Explain how this is a summative product of your 4 years
5. Describe your proposed process
6. List your three primary resources
7. List your proposed time line

BFA Acting Capstone Evaluation

- ✓ Organization of rehearsal process
- ✓ Collaboration with team members, actors, directors.
- ✓ Showing #1
- ✓ Showing #2
- ✓ Showing #3 Must be a full run
- ✓ Incorporation of faculty feedback
- ✓ Final Performance
- ✓ Process journal

Required Repertoire

- ACTING
 - 2 monologues, 2 scenes – mandatory
 - After That, it's up to you!
 - Needs a thematic or dramatic arc
- DIRECTING
 - Pre-Requisite - Directing I course
 - Pitch three shows. Faculty will pick one. A “student directed project” in Lab theatre
 - Smaller cast, simple set shows will be considered much more favorably.
- PLAYWRITING
 - Pre-Requisite – Playwriting
 - Full-length original or adaptation
 - Public reading

Additional Guideline

- All material must be new to the student the academic year during which the capstone is presented
- All material must be approved by faculty
- Rehearsal schedule must be submitted to faculty
- Performance Capstone should be no shorter than 25 minutes and no longer than 35 minutes
- Performance may include essential costume pieces and/or props as needed
- 1 – 3 “helpers”

BFA Dance Capstone

Evaluation

- ✓ Organization of rehearsal process
- ✓ Collaboration with pianist, choreographer, dancers
- ✓ Showing #1
- ✓ Showing #2
- ✓ Showing #3 Must be a full run
- ✓ Incorporation of faculty feedback
- ✓ Final Performance
- ✓ Process journal

Required Repertoire

- Should reflect your training as a performer and choreographer

Performance Focus

- Must include solo and group dances in which you are not the choreographer.
- Must include one dance of any style, choreographed by you.
- Must include at least three dance styles/genres
- MAY include your training in other areas of technical theatre/design/Musical Theatre/acting

Choreography Focus

- Must include solo and group dances in which you are not the performer.
- Must include one dance of any style, performed by you.
- Must include at least three dance styles/genres
- Prerequisite – Composition I and II.

Additional Guidelines

- All material must be new to the student the academic year during which the Capstone is presented
- All material must be approved by faculty
- Rehearsal schedule must be submitted to faculty
- Capstone should be no shorter than 25 minutes and no longer than 35 minutes
- Performance may include essential costume pieces and/or props as needed

BFA Design Capstone

Evaluation

- ✓ Organization of design process
- ✓ Collaboration with Creative team
- ✓ Showing #1
- ✓ Showing #2
- ✓ Showing #3 Must be a full run
- ✓ Incorporation of faculty feedback
- ✓ Final Performance
- ✓ Process journal

- Connected to a main-stage faculty/guest directed production
- APPROPRIATE RESEARCH
- YOUR PROCESS JOURNAL is Required
- CREATIVE PROCESS WILL BE BASED ON THE DIRECTORIAL CONCEPT AND ANY INPUT PROVIDED BY THE OTHER DESIGNERS
- PROCEED THROUGH ESTABLISHED BENCHMARKS AT SPECIFIC DATES
- REQUIRED ATTENDANCE AT ALL PRODUCTION MEETINGS, Technical and Dress Rehearsals
- ALL PAPERWORK EXPECTED OF A WORKING DESIGNER (unless mutually agreed upon by the design mentor)

BFA Musical Theatre Capstone

Evaluation

- Organization of rehearsal process
- Collaboration with pianist
- Showing #1
- Showing #2
- Showing #3 Must be a full run
- Incorporation of faculty feedback
- Engaging faculty advisors throughout entire process
- Final Performance
- Process journal

Required Repertoire

Element		Length in Minutes
At least 2 Monologues	Monologues can come from existing shows or be original.	1:00-2:00 minutes each
MT Scenes	Dialogue can come from existing shows or be original.	8:00-10:00 minutes total
At least 5 songs (Solo, duet, small group)	Various styles, origins, genres	18:00-25:00 minutes total
Dance	Pre-choreographed, any style.	Should be incorporated into songs/scenes.
		Total: not to exceed 40 minutes

Additional Guidelines

- All material must be new to the student the academic year during which the capstone is presented
- All material must be approved by faculty
- Rehearsal schedule must be submitted to faculty
- Minimum of 3 showings
- Capstone shall not be longer than 40 minutes
- Performance may include essential costume pieces and/or props as needed
- Performance may not involve more than (6) six performing individuals including the senior, any musicians, and any other supporting actors/dancers/singers.