



DEPAUW  
UNIVERSITY

**COMM 491M**  
***Senior Capstone Thesis or Artistic  
Project Proposal Process***

The senior capstone experience in Communication and Theatre is where majors intentionally integrate, interpret, and create knowledge in their chosen area of focus through scholarly or artistic exploration and expression. This is both the challenge and the reward of their years spent in the intellectual life of the department and discipline. Capstone experiences also prepare students for the intellectual, ethical, interpersonal, and professional challenges that lie ahead after graduation, whether or not they go on to formal graduate study. Most majors will complete this experience through the regularly schedule departmental senior seminar. Qualified students may apply to complete an independent Senior Capstone Thesis or Artistic Project. The eligibility requirements and application process are described below.

Interested students must complete this COMM 491M Senior Capstone Thesis or Artistic Project Application

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for an independent Senior Capstone Thesis or Artistic Project is as follows:

A major GPA of 3.0 or above

Completion of all other required 300 level or above classes prior to the proposed project semester

Completion of one of more of the department designated 300 level “seminar prep” courses

Timely delivery of a completed application, and

A thoughtful and well articulated thesis or artistic project proposal

Thesis or Artistic Projects may be completed in any specialization of Communication and Theatre or any integrated combination of specializations. Thesis or Artistic Projects may also be completed in connection with interdisciplinary programs or other departments.

Applications are due no later than April 1 of a student’s junior year at DePauw (or no later than December 1 of a student’s junior year for students anticipating early graduation).

In the application the student will be expected to articulate the purpose behind the Senior Capstone Experience they are proposing. The applicant should clearly explain why the student cannot fulfill their Senior Capstone Experience goals in a departmental senior seminar. Schedule conflicts, being a double major, and not liking the senior seminar topic are not compelling reasons to support the application for an independent Senior Capstone Experience.

Applicants will be asked to explain their specific preparation for this thesis or artistic project, why this independent Senior Capstone Experience is necessary, and how the thesis or artistic project will be evaluated by the faculty sponsor.

Evaluation of Proposals

The department chair will consult with the faculty sponsor and together they will determine if the student meets the independent Senior Capstone Experience eligibility requirements AND if the student is adequately prepared to execute and complete the proposed project. Students will be notified of the faculty’s decision no later than the end of the spring semester of their junior year (or by the end of the semester prior to their last full year of coursework at DePauw for students anticipating early graduation.)