

WHAT CAN MY SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT BE?

Think about it. What have you always wanted to do? **The possibilities are endless.**

For Senior Capstone, you are **not required** to produce a research paper or a report. Instead, think outside the box! A few examples of what past students have done:

- written a book
- cleaned up a polluted marsh,
- built a generator,
- invented an app,
- conducted workshops,
- made a website,
- wrote and performed a play,
- produced a film.

In the 2019-2020, maybe you could organize a campaign in your community, investigate viruses, identify a need in society that you want to correct or improve, conduct an investigation in a laboratory, build, design, or invent something.

Come up with an idea and if it seems reasonable and sufficiently challenging, it will be supported.

This challenging course for highly-motivated seniors enables you to develop advanced research, writing, and presentation skills, while grappling with essential questions that span disciplines.

It will pull together and further refine skills that you have developed and advanced in all courses during your entire BLS education and culminate in your creation of a truly interdisciplinary investigation: a Capstone project that you will conceive and execute, with the support of faculty mentors.

Students who have completed the Senior Capstone course have published books, released films, been hired to work at sites where they interned or interviewed as part of their Senior Capstone projects, employed the skills from their Capstone projects to work with Syrian refugees in Germany or clean up salt marshes throughout the United States.

SENIOR CAPSTONE Advanced Independent Research and Presentation Seminar



In 2019-2020, the sixth year of the groundbreaking Senior Capstone course will be offered. Capstone projects and courses are already fixtures at many colleges and some elite high schools but at Boston Latin School, this is the first team-taught, truly interdisciplinary, independent research program.

WHAT WILL SENIOR CAPSTONE BE LIKE IN 2019-2020?

Before the school year begins, you will have identified a topic and key questions **you wish** to investigate as part of your independent Senior Capstone project. During terms 1 and 2, you will be immersed in inquiry-based, self-driven, authentic learning while researching, collecting, analyzing, evaluating and presenting information from varied sources, all focused around **your chosen topic**.

During terms 1 and 2, you will develop and receive feedback on a central question, a research focus, and proposals for your final Capstone projects.

Your project takes clear shape by the end of term 1 and work continues on the project's execution through term 3. By the start of term 4, your project will have been completed and you will present a TEDx-style talk that, with a Q+A, is an 18-minute presentation in front of the entire school community.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RE SENIOR CAPSTONE

Will this look good on my transcript as I apply for college?

Yes! Many colleges already have Capstone projects and see them as the optimal way to summarize all that you have achieved in high school; that's why the best high schools are adopting these prestigious courses. This is the school's advanced research course (and will be listed that way on your transcript). It will allow you to create something you are passionate about and lay the foundation for areas you may pursue in college. Imagine how you will be able to talk about this in college essays and interviews.

Will I be able to work with resources outside the school that can help with/be useful to this project?

Yes! As part of Senior Capstone, you can do internships, interviews, invite outside advisors and mentors, and take relevant classes.

What if I don't have the materials I need to create a successful project?

Thanks to generous alumni support, we are able to support your work with materials, technology, experiences, and supplies.

Will it involve considerable work?

Absolutely. The scope of the work will be ambitious, **but YOU will be defining the topic based on what interests you and YOU will propose the nature of the project. You will get plenty of support—from an advisor and mentors—but you will be taking on an ambitious project that YOU, above all, are passionate about.**

Is Senior Capstone a Science, English, History, or Arts course?

It is multidisciplinary, which means it is located in no department and does not affect your maximum of two courses in any one academic department.

How is it graded?

This class will receive grades, just as any other BLS class does. All of the key steps in the Capstone process will be graded and major grades will be on the final Capstone project and the public presentation on the project.

How do I apply?

The 2019-2020 Capstone course seeks a wide variety of students with an array of academic and extracurricular interests and backgrounds. You will need to submit an online application for the class—go to <https://goo.gl/forms/GWUFZ2gNur1Ag2V62>—and complete this **by no later than Thursday, March 14, 2019.**