

Indiana University South Bend
Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts

Department of Theatre & Dance

Capstone Guidelines

Updated 2017

Theatre Performance Capstone Requirements

All B.A. and B.F.A. Theatre Performance students may be presented with the option to complete their capstone projects with a major role in a production depending on casting. This role-based capstone will be accompanied by paperwork, scoring/analysis and a final paper. If not presented with this option, the recital is the required capstone project. If a student is presented with the option of a role-based capstone and they would like to complete the recital instead, they are to make this known to their academic advisor as soon as possible.

The Recital Consists of five (5) five solo pieces and 1 scene.

NOTE: In addition to the performance of this recital a part of your grade on this Capstone Project will be dependent on your organization of this process; including the work with your partner and the scheduling of rehearsals with the performance faculty. Another aspect of your grade will be dependent on your ability to address and utilize the feedback you receive from the performance faculty.

Solo Pieces (Each piece must be two minutes or less):

- 1) A Shakespeare piece in verse
- 2) A contrasting Shakespeare piece
- 3) A Moliere (Richard Wilbur translation)
- 4) A piece that shows off your special skills or individuality
- 5) A piece that is against your type

Scene:

- 6) A contemporary scene played with one other actor.
The scene partner must be a currently enrolled student majoring in theatre with a performance concentration.

Minimum preparation parameters:

- 1) Pieces must be chosen from published plays and or literature.
- 2) Pieces must be approved by the performance faculty.
- 3) Please send the performance faculty a copy of your overall rehearsal schedule once set.
- 4) There must be a minimum of 2 rehearsals with the performance faculty prior to the recital. Each rehearsal must be at least a week apart.
- 5) The date of the recital must be set by the fifth week of classes; the Production Office must be contacted by you to book the space for rehearsals and the performance.
- 6) The recital will be a public performance under the auspices of the Theatre & Dance Area of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts.
- 7) The recital shall be no longer than 15 – 20 minutes.
- 8) The performance will be contiguous with simple/essential use of costume pieces and props as needed.
- 9) In addition to the above performance work, please provide Stanislavski-based scoring as supporting paperwork for 4 of your 6 chosen pieces. (template will be provided)

Dance Capstone Requirements

*All BFA Theatre students with a concentration in dance must complete this recital as a part of their capstone project.

Consists of five (5) five solo pieces and 1 choreographed dance with a partner.

NOTE: In addition to the performance of this recital a part of your grade on this Capstone Project will be dependent on your organization of this process; including the work with your partner and the scheduling of rehearsals with the performance faculty. Another aspect of your grade will be dependent on your ability to address and utilize the feedback you receive from the performance faculty.

- 1) **Choreograph a dance piece for one person.** You will not be dancing in this piece and will be responsible for solely choreographing this piece. (1:30 – 2:00 minutes)
- 2) **Choreograph a piece and dance in it with one partner** (must be the same partner from dance solo piece). A list of steps that must be included in the choreography will be provided. Think of this as a dance-based scene. (3:00 – 4:00)
- 3) **Solo dance piece.** (This piece will be from one of the following techniques: ballet, tap, modern or jazz. This piece must be choreographed by someone else) 2:00 – 3:00
- 4) **Contemporary Monologue.** One minute in length.
- 5) **Contrasting Shakespearean monologue.** One minute in length
- 6) **A performance that shows individuality.** (Can be dance, acting or singing based – or all three together) 1:30 – 2:00

Minimum preparation parameters:

- 1) Pieces must be chosen from published plays and or literature.
- 2) Pieces must be approved by the performance/dance faculty.
- 3) Please send the performance faculty a copy of your overall rehearsal schedule once set.
- 4) There must be a minimum of 2 rehearsals with the performance faculty prior to the recital. Each rehearsal must be at least a week apart.
- 5) The date of the recital must be set by the fifth week of classes; the Production Office must be contacted by you to book the space for rehearsals and the performance.
- 6) The recital will be a public performance under the auspices of the Theatre & Dance Area of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts.
- 7) The recital shall be no longer than 20 – 25 minutes.
- 8) The performance will be contiguous with simple/essential use of costume pieces and props as needed.
- 9) In addition to the above performance work, please provide documentation of all choreography done and Stanislavski-based acting scores (templates provided) for all monologues.

Musical Theatre Performance Capstone Requirements

(B.F.A. Theatre w/ Musical Theatre Concentration)

*All B.F.A. Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre Performance students must complete this recital as their capstone project.

NOTE: In addition to the final performance aspect of this recital, you will also be graded on your organization of the rehearsal process, your scheduling of and working with a collaborative pianist, the two required rehearsals the performance faculty will attend and your ability to incorporate the feedback given from the faculty and translate that to your final performance.

Solo Pieces:

- 1) **A contemporary monologue (1940's to present)** [1:15 – 1:30 in length]
- 2) **A Shakespearean monologue in verse** [1:30 – 2:00 in length]
- 3) **A Song by one of the following Golden Age Composer/lyricist teams:** Rodgers and Hammerstein, Rodgers and Hart, Lerner and Loewe, Coleman, Comden and Green, Jerry Herman (music and lyrics), Kander and Ebb. [Ballad or Uptempo – 2:00 – 3:00 in length]
- 4) **A song with composition and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim** [Ballad or Uptempo – must be different than choice made for #3. 2:00 – 3:00 in length]
- 5) **A contemporary musical Theatre Scene** [must be from 2000 – present day, 5:00- 6:00 in length] This must include performing a duet and scene work with one partner.
- 6) **A selection from an operetta composed by one of the following:** Herbert, Gilbert and Sullivan, Novello, Strauss). This selection can be either a ballad or an uptempo and must be 2:00 – 3:00 in length.
- 7) **A cover song from the last 10 years.** For this, please choose a popular song written within the last 10 years. This selection can be either a ballad or an uptempo and must be 2:00 – 3:00 in length.
- 8) **A dance piece.** You may choose from a list of pre-choreographed routines built to assess your progress in dance technique throughout your time in the program. (1:30 – 2:00 in length)

Minimum preparation parameters:

- 1) Pieces must be chosen from published plays, musicals and or literature.
- 2) At least three (3) of the pieces chosen to sing/act must be new to the student and learned throughout the semester of capstone (the dance piece does not count in this goal)
- 3) Pieces must be approved by the performance faculty.
- 4) Please send the performance faculty a copy of your overall rehearsal schedule once set.
- 5) There must be a minimum of 2 rehearsals with the performance faculty prior to the recital. Each rehearsal must be at least a week apart.
- 6) The date of the recital must be set by the fifth week of classes; the Production Office must be contacted by you to book the space for rehearsals and the performance.
- 7) The recital will be a public performance under the auspices of the Theatre & Dance Area of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts
- 8) The recital shall be no longer than 30 minutes.
- 9) The performance will be contiguous with simple/essential use of costume pieces and props as needed.
- 10) In addition to the above performance work, please provide Stanislavski-based/Musical theatre - based scoring as supporting paperwork for 4 of your 6 chosen pieces. (template will be provided)

Design and Technical Production Capstone Requirements

In your senior year as a Design and Technical Production Student you will complete the capstone class. Below are the guidelines for the capstone project for each area. These projects are designed to be intensive challenges that prove to the faculty that you have gained the skills while at IUSB to continue on into the professional world or to graduate study.

Overview:

All students taking the capstone project should be in contact with their advisor to schedule their capstone project. This should take place close to the end of their last semester. It is imperative that you prepare and take your capstone seriously. Not passing your capstone project could mean not graduating on time. Capstone Projects take place on two 8 hour days and test both design and technical skill. These projects are done on campus in a private room. You will be allowed to bring in materials to complete your project as well as food and drink for the day. What may be done in advance is limited to reading a script and specific paperwork items. The principle part of your capstone will be done in a classroom during the two 8 hour periods.

eSet Testing:

Though not a graded part of the capstone, we encourage students to take the eSet exam administered through USITT. eSet (Essential Skills for Entertainment Technicians) exams are a two-part test starting with an online exam in general terms and safety then a section on your specific areas. The second half includes a practical exam, which will be given at the national USITT conference as well as regional conferences over each year.

The cost for your first subject exam is \$40. Upon successful completion of a subject exam, you will receive a discount code to take your next exam at 50% off should you choose to take a second area exam. The cost of the online exam includes the practical exam as well.

To register for the practical exam you **MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE** the Online Exam. Successful completion of the practical exam is the highest level of eSET skills proof. To show your completion you will be mailed a second certificate noting both online and practical completion.

For more information consult: www.usitt.org/eset

Scenic Capstone Project:

One week before the first exam day, students will be given a script for a play that they must read, take notes on, and complete some basic research. However, students will only be able to do some advance work, as requirements will not be assigned until the morning of the exam.

Before the 1st exam day students must complete:

Props list

Scene Shift Plot

Day 1 (8 Hours 9am-5pm):

Students will be given a concept for the play and be told what scene they are to design that morning.

Students then must complete:

Ground Plan on a pre-drafted theatre space

Color Rendering or White Model with color representations

Day 2 (8 Hours 9am-5pm): *

Students must complete a practical application in either:

Scenic Painting or Scenic Construction

Your choice must be communicated at least a week before the exam.

Costume Capstone Project:

One week before the first exam day, students will be given a script for a play that they must read, take notes on, and complete some basic research. However, students will only be able to do some advance work, as requirements will not be assigned until the morning of the exam.

Before the 1st exam day students must complete:

Actor/Scene Chart

Costume List

Day 1 (8 Hours 9am-5pm):

Students will be given a concept for the play and be told what characters they are to design that morning.

Students then must complete:

3 Complete Costume Renderings

1 Costume Detail Sketch

Day 2 (8 Hours 9am-5pm): *

Students will be given a costume sketch and must pattern and create a presentation quality mockup of muslin and canvas for a section of the costume (IE: pattern and make the bodice)

Lighting Capstone Project:

One week before the first exam day, students will be given a script for a play that they must read, take notes on, and complete some basic research. However, students will only be able to do some advance work, as requirements will not be assigned until the morning of the exam.

Before the 1st exam day students must complete:

Cue Sheet

Lighting Mood Descriptions for each scene

Day 1 (8 Hours 9am-5pm):

Students will be given a concept for the play that morning.

Students then must complete:

Light plot (ground plan only on a pre-drafted theatre space)

3 Lighting Renderings (These can be digital)

Day 2 (8 Hours 9am-5pm): *

Students will be given a lighting plot to hang and focus. Students will have a pre-chosen song that they will cue a lighting display to, based on a piece of research (evocative painting). This will take place in the upstage.

*** Assistance:**

For the 2nd day of the scenic, costume, and lighting exams students are allowed to recruit one student to assist them in completing the project. This can be any student in the department who is a junior or below. It is the student's responsibility to find this assistant and the student completing the capstone must lead the project... they are there to assist you in completing the project, not to do it for you.

Stage Management Capstone Project:

Day 1 (8 Hours 9am-5pm):

Students will be given a script and must create a blocking script from the given materials

Produce the following paperwork:

Contact Sheet

Daily Call

Wallet Cards

French Scene Breakdown

Actor/Character List

Line Notes Form

Preshow Checklist

Create an Emergency Contact Form

Create your own Rehearsal Report

Create your own Performance Report

Take blocking notes in the script for one scene of the play based on a video of the scene

Day 2 (8 Hours 9am-5pm):

Student will be required to produce a calling script based on cue sheets that will be handed out that morning.

The student will also be required to create a daily call schedule for two productions being produced in rep with an evening performance of a third production. In addition they must schedule a selection of costume fittings for both shows around the rehearsal requirements.