

HONORS CAPSTONE PROJECT TITLE

A proposal by

Your Name

in partial fulfillment for Honors in Environmental Studies

Date

Name of Committee Chair

Name of Committee Member #1

Name of Committee Member #2

1. *Proposed Concentration:* Title

In this section, you need to provide a description of your concentration that gives it a somewhat broad context so people know what interests you. For example, *My concentration in Water Policy addresses water quality standards and how local governments formulate and enforce them.* You should then list the five courses that define your concentration and that you feel have given you the tools to learn more about and understand your concentration topic. Also provide a simple rationale for the courses you included in the list. Most of the time, a course title will make it self-evident why you included it in the list, so your rationale can be somewhat general. For the water policy example, if Public Policy was one of your courses, you wouldn't need to specifically say why you included it, just that you have a basic understanding of how policies influence behaviors. Other classes may require more detail.

2. *Courses defining this concentration:*

1. Course Name and rationale;
2. Course Name and rationale;
3. Course Name and rationale;
4. Course Name and rationale;
5. Course Name and rationale;

3. Capstone Proposal

There is no set length to the body of the proposal, although thoughtful and detailed proposals will likely be two single-spaced pages. Below are descriptions of the content you should include in your proposal, and although these seem somewhat defined, particular examples may not be relevant for your specific situation. Therefore, you can save yourself a lot of aggravation by developing this proposal in consultation with your capstone advisor. Please be also vigilant about citing references to the knowledge and ideas that inspired your capstone project.

Your proposal should include:

1. **an introductory background section**, where you provide the reader with information necessary to understand the overall context of your project. This should be written so it leads up to the specific objectives, goals, or research questions you intend to address in your capstone. A good thing to include here are sources of uncertainty or conflicting hypotheses that have led to the development of your project.
2. **A methodology section** where you describe how you are going to accomplish your project. This could be specific scientific techniques, or ways you will collect survey data, or locations you need to travel to get access to specific information. You are trying to convince your committee that you have identified the resources necessary to be successful. So please be specific as you write this and avoid saying things like *I will conduct a survey of people eating lunch to find their food preferences*. Your committee will want to know how many people, how old are they, where they are eating lunch, and on what days? You should also discuss issues of funding and scheduling.
3. **An outcome statement** describing how you are going to report on your project when you finish. *The ENV program requires you to submit a written report and to defend your work in front of your capstone committee*. There is flexibility in the type of written report and where you do your presentation, and again this requires you to consult with your capstone advisor.
4. **A bibliography**. You should check with your committee if they have specific requirements about formatting.