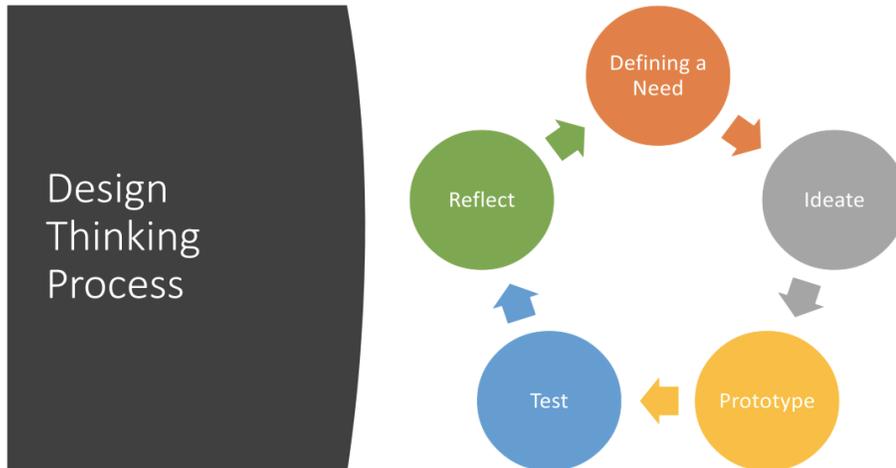


Capstone Types/ Processes

Capstone – Create and Build

Do you like the idea of inventing new things, and coming up with ideas to solve problems? That is called Applied Design, and it might be the choice for you. You'll need to think about how to design a product knowing who your target user is, and why you are creating it for them.

PROCESS



Determining a Need

- Identify a need/problem you might be able to build something to solve
 - Who are the people you are considering? What is the need/problem? How will you know you have solved the problem, or met the need?

Ideate

- Find out what has already been done to solve this need. Get inspiration from previous designs.
- Brainstorm as many of your own ideas as you can, attempting to produce as many solutions as possible. Incorporate some of your research findings in your ideas. Select one idea to explore.
- Create a design (drawing/flowchart/etc.) for a prototype. It should illustrate what the prototype will look like, before you build it.
- Consider what you might require to build a prototype of your design (materials, tools, equipment, procedures) that might be required.

Prototype

- Build the prototype of your product.
- Get feedback from adults to provide you with direction about how to improve your design to meet the needs/problem.

Test

- Have a user test your prototype, if possible. Get feedback from the user to determine how you might make adjustments to your design.

Reflect

- Reflect on the creating and making process, building and elaborating on what worked well and what might be done differently next time.

Capstone – Create and Express

Creation and expression can take many forms and include sharing creative work with an appropriate audience. You can express messages, feelings, and emotions through original actions, words, images, music, dance, talents, and so forth.

PROCESS

Inspiration and Ideation

- Inspiration can come from so many sources. What excites you in this field? Who's work do you follow? What are some of your past experiences in this field?
- Note your personal skills and identify those you wish to develop.
- Brainstorm a theme/ idea you want to convey in your form of expression, and generate a first draft of ideas.

Design

- What are some design elements you should include in your project? Why?
- Who will your audience be?
- How will you present your work?
- Draft some initial plans (e.g., storyboard, outline, sketch, etc.).
- What materials will you use?
- What process will you use?

Create

- Create and refine your work/performance
- Receive and apply constructive feedback to further refine and revise

Communicate

- Arrange/video showcase/performance
- Present/Video performance
- Seek feedback related to the intended theme of the piece

Reflect

- Reflect on process, building and elaborating on what worked well and what might be done differently next time, and on the development of your skills and competencies. Consider how you might apply them to future plans.



Capstone – Service Learning

Do you want to contribute to the community, or motivate others to make a difference in their school/community? This might be the project most suited for you, if you want to develop or broaden leadership traits such as: commitment, accountability, initiative, resilience, and empathy. You might plan and organize an event that enables people to connect over a certain cause.

PROCESS

Understand the Setting (Context)

- Identify a community to contribute to
- Observe the community closely and with empathy to gather ethical, social, cultural, and/or environmental context
- When possible, work with community members to identify an issue/need, and to generate ideas
- Identify what impact you/your event is intending to have.

Plan and Apply

- Formulate plans for a solution/change: determine a **process** (an approach with strategies), **resources** required, and a **method** to organize the information; describe intended **outcomes**
- Consider different viewpoints and implications on community members, in order to generate possible alterations to your plan
- Consult with community and refine the plan, based on feedback provided

Implement

- *Determine if it is possible to implement the event at this time, given current situations affecting your community. If it is not possible, explain why and what your next steps might be to bring about the change you intended.*
- If it is possible, activate the plan using the strategies, intended processes, and resources to effect change
- Monitor how things are going, while maintaining an open mind. Try to be flexible and responsive (react quickly and positively) and adjust, as needed.

Communicate

- Decide how and with whom, to share the service experience, impacts, and key learnings (e.g., video, display, concept map, testimonials from community members, pamphlets, etc.)
- Critically reflect on the processes, experiences, impacts, and personal growth.



Capstone – Investigate and Report

Are you interested in building research skills? Do you enjoy experimenting with ideas? With this Capstone, you will come up with a meaningful question/problem/desired career path/issue to investigate, gather information through research, interpret and analyze the information, and communicate what you find out.



PROCESS

Design an essential (inquiry) question

- Develop an inquiry question that connects to something you are curious about. It can be a topic, or a personal/local/global issue you are interested in learning more about and want to create some change around.

Plan and Investigate

- Select and plan an investigation strategy. For example, will you conduct academic research, fieldwork study, or interview an expert to collect reliable information and data?
- Formulate sound supporting study questions (devoid of bias and misleading information)?
- Conduct the study and collect and record data.

Analyze and Interpret Collected Information and Data

- Represent data in the form of a graph/table/model/diagram
- Analyze data by looking for patterns, trends, and connections in the data
- Receive and apply constructive feedback to further refine and revise
- Draw conclusions based on research, understandings, and findings.

Evaluate

- Describe what worked well and identify specific ways to improve future investigations (e.g., evaluate validity, limitations, and claims; draw conclusions about possible reasons for results; identify new questions to investigate)
- Identify limiting factors that might have affected results.

Report and Communicate

- Report on findings, ideas, information, and implications of the investigation (e.g. formal report, science fair, oral presentation, website, video, etc.)

Capstone – Personal Story

Have you had a meaningful life-changing event/experience (e.g., mental health, recovery, immigration, etc.) that you would like to write about? If so, the Personal Story option could be a great choice. In this Capstone project you, the student author, narrate your own autobiographical experience.



PROCESS

Identify purpose and intent

- Think of a memorable event and/or significant learning experience that challenged and shaped you to be who you are today.
- Why and how did the event or learning experience change who you are and/or your outlook? With whom would you like to share this story and why? What is the motivation/inspiration for sharing your story and what is the overall message you wish to communicate to your audience?

Plan and design

- Decide how the story can be organized in a way that is most meaningful and that best communicates the message to be conveyed
- Decide on the best way to tell the story (e.g., visual/oral/written expression, voiceover, text, music, digital tools, other effects or a combination)
- Consider ways to best tell your story. For example:
 - How might visual/oral/written expression and/or voiceover and/or text be used to tell the story?
 - What will the design/layout look like?
 - Will other effects, such as music be included?
 - How might digital tools be used to tell the story?
- Ensure the story is engaging for the intended audience, as well as focused, organized, and concise

Create and review

- Who can you approach to review and provide feedback on your personal story? Draw on individuals from multiple areas in your life, incorporating relevant feedback and suggestions as needed.

Present

- Share your story with an audience
- Reflect on your thinking throughout the preparation and presenting process, elaborating on new competencies and skills learned, and the personal impact of the capstone process; reflect on how to apply them to preferred future plans for post-graduation.

Capstone – Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The focus of this capstone option is to create and experience the start of a new business initiative. Students will conceptualize a product and/or service that is original to them and may incorporate active job shadowing/internship. This is ideal for students who are enthusiastic about following a personal passion, are self-motivated, desire the experience of working independently, want to meet new people and network with other entrepreneurs and professionals, and wish to help people use products and services that improve their lives. Students may choose to design and create their own personal brand by becoming an expert and learning the ropes of an industry through first-hand experience.

Process

Conceptualize

- Identify areas of interest, personal passions, and enjoyment, and brainstorm types of business ideas that connect to personal interest
- Take creative risks in generating ideas and add to others' ideas in ways that enhance them, maintaining an open mind about potentially viable ideas
- Taking the viewpoint of the potential customer, consider the what, why, who, and how
- Enhance understanding of community needs by engaging in empathetic observation, including communication with potential users to explore their needs and wants
- Determine whether the business will include a service and/or product

Analyze

- Gather and evaluate information through market research on the business service/product concept (e.g., conduct user surveys and test marketing, consider risk management/liability, etc.) to determine the needs of potential customers
- Identify the potential costs (materials, resources, venues, equipment, labour, insurance, etc.)

Design

- Create a plan that includes business elements such as timelines, costs and pricing, promotion, and distribution
- Share progress throughout this process to enable ongoing feedback and improvements

Apply

- Elaborate how to implement the business plan and apply if feasible
- Critically reflect on the entrepreneurial processes, and identify challenges/define new goals for future business ventures
- Reflect on and share growth in new skills and competencies and consider how to apply them to preferred future plans for post-graduation