Health, Humanities, and Society Capstone (optional)

Students in the Health, Humanities, and Society (HHS) minor may choose to meet three credits of elective requirements by undertaking a senior capstone project. This capstone will give students an opportunity for sustained exploration of contemporary concerns in medical practice. Students who choose to engage in this opportunity must do the following:

1. Identify a faculty advisor who agrees to mentor them in the project. (This faculty advisor must confirm their participation by emailing the HHS Program Director, Prof. Smith-Oka, vsmithok@nd.edu). Faculty advisors can be drawn from the HHS Faculty Affiliates or from another department.
2. Identify a topic and research question that relates to topics within HHS.
3. Write the capstone (25-30 pages long), supported by the faculty mentor, during the Spring semester of their senior year. (Students already writing a senior thesis in their primary major can potentially also count it as part of the HHS requirements; in this case their work must be longer and larger in scope than a standalone research project would be in either department. Students in this situation must obtain pre-approval from their program adviser and their advising dean.)
4. Present their capstone (as a poster or talk) to the HHS community during the last week of the spring semester.

Students interested in writing a senior capstone must consult with the HHS Program Director (Prof. Smith-Oka, vsmithok@nd.edu) by the Friday after Fall Break of their senior year. Before the end of the fall semester students must officially register for a three-credit undergraduate research course in HHS and identify their faculty mentor, who needs to provide an email describing the nature of the capstone to the HHS program director.

The final draft of the capstone is due on the third Friday of April and must be sent to the student's capstone advisor and the HHS program director. The student's advisor is responsible for assigning the final grade in the course.

Students can write their capstone based on any of the following options: A literature review of a topic of interest; an analysis of their experiences within an ISSLP or SSLP; an analysis and reflection of their experiences shadowing a clinician; or a research project based on empirical data the student has collected. The nature of the capstone and its empirical roots need to be part of the conversation between the student and their advisor.