

SENIOR CAPSTONE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Senior Capstone Project has been designed to give students the opportunity to explore an area of academic, aesthetic, or professional interest. Over the course of their academic career at Sage Ridge, students have been challenged by their teachers and peers in many ways. In the classroom, their teachers have guided them and introduced them to complex subjects. As budding scholars, they have learned and honed abundant skills essential to research including thoughtful writing, critical thinking and cooperative learning. They have also come to understand the value of civic engagement and social justice, and they have become literate in information technology. Outside of class, they have been maturing into young adults, demonstrating leadership skills and making choices about their own life. The Capstone Project is the next logical step in this process—it requires students to draw on their academic and extracurricular experiences.

The core idea behind the Capstone Project is creation. Students are asked to take the sum of their Sage Ridge experience—skills, knowledge, and abilities—and become something more by embarking on a dynamically creative process. In practical terms, this means they work to make an original and thoughtful contribution to their own field of interest. As students begin their Capstone Project, they define their field of interest and consider what form their final work might take. Emphasis is put on the process of creating the Capstone project as well as on the final product.

The Capstone Project can take any of the following forms:

- An original piece of academic research in an approved field.
- A scientific investigation.
- Fiction or creative writing.
- An original artistic project or production.
- Thoughtful and probing journalistic investigation.

Capstone projects must meet the following standards:

- It must be an original work.
- It must demonstrate a familiarity with and attention to the standards of excellence for their particular field.
- It must demonstrate advanced knowledge of their particular field.
- It must be approved as a viable project by a committee of three faculty members.
- It must meet the standards established by the student project advisor, a faculty member acquainted with your field.

Examples of Capstone Projects include:

- Collaborating with the Desert Research Institute to collate and analyze data moving towards publication
- Being the student leader of the school's community service program and working closely with administration
- Partnering with a local museum to create an original period dress display
- Writing detailed elements of an original business plan
- Writing and defending a thesis

SENIOR INTERNSHIP GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Senior Internship is part of the senior experience that most 12th graders look forward to. The internship begins in the middle of April and continues for three weeks and includes weekly meetings at school to (a) turn in journal entries representing the daily experiences students have, (b) participate in a group discussion regarding their “world of work”, and (c) hear announcements and prepare for graduation activities. Below is a section from the handout given to seniors regarding the program so that you will understand the process:

The Senior Internship plays a vital role in the educational process at Sage Ridge. It moves education outside the boundaries of the traditional classroom into the workplace and allows students to gain on the job experience in a career interest. The premise is that success in higher education is predicated not only on how much knowledge students have acquired, but also on how well they have learned to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate that knowledge. In addition, students must master the process of how to learn in order to achieve success in the new situations which lie ahead.

Specific goals are as follows:

1. Introduction to the world of work
2. Pursuit of a career interest
3. Establishment of a transition period from high school to college with greater individual freedom and responsibility

Seniors are required to plan, design, and implement an internship experience in one of the following areas: Social Service, Vocation-Career Exploration or the Arts. Journals are kept daily and reviewed by faculty advisors weekly.

In the past, students participating in such Internships have worked with community agencies in a variety of areas including veterinary science, law, communications, engineering, merchandising, education, banking, business, medicine and journalism.

Students are evaluated upon completion of their Internship on the basis of High Pass (HP) = Excellent; G = Good; S- = Satisfactory; P = Pass; U = Unsatisfactory. Both the Internship title and grade are reported on the Senior Transcript.

NOTE: Successful completion of the Senior Internship is a requirement for graduation.

GUIDELINES:

General

1. Seniors are expected to dress acceptably, be prompt, and, in general, to be representative of the work ethic of the business.
2. There is to be no pay, wages, or salary for services performed in the project.

3. Projects are expected to work a minimum of 4 hours per day, 20 hours per week for a total of 60 hours.
4. Ordinarily, no project will be approved that involves a student's parents or immediate relatives.
5. One or more students may work on the same project. However, each senior is responsible for fulfilling his or her own requirements and should have a separate sponsor.
6. Projects outside of Washoe County will be considered. However, approval must be secured from the Internship Coordinator prior to the final approval date.
7. **UNLESS YOU ARE ILL, IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR YOU TO BE ABSENT FROM WORK. THEREFORE, AVOID ANY SCHEDULED TRIPS DURING THIS PERIOD. ANY PROLONGED OR UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE MAY JEOPARDIZE YOUR GRADUATION PARTICIPATION!!**
8. Sage Ridge reserves the right to refuse student participation in any and all projects where there is the possibility of evident or imminent danger to the student. Examples might be skydiving, monitoring work with the police department that involves field duty relating to law enforcement, or participating with the fire department. Ms. Bissonette will review all such requests and evaluate their acceptability.

Samples of Organizations that have Sponsored Internships in the Past

- Silver Legacy
- Bauserman Group
- NV Democratic Headquarters
- Orthodontic Partners
- Foster Machine Shop
- Crisis Call Center
- TMCC Math Dept.
- MinQuest Inc.
- Renown Hospital
- CLM DesignAdvertisingInteractive
- Brookfield Elementary
- Sierra Safari Zoo
- HAWC Clinic
- Edible Reno-Tahoe Magazine
- Pinion Animal Hospital

Special Note: Sage Ridge School suggests that seniors begin planning their internships in January of their senior year. This information is comes from the Senior Internship Handout distributed to seniors at that time.