

WOU Leadership Certificate Program

Capstone Experience Guidelines

Philosophy

The Western Oregon University Leadership Certificate program culminates in a student's participation in a Capstone Experience leadership presentation. This presentation will synthesize a student's leadership experiences while they have attended WOU. The presentation will be to a group of campus professionals, alumni and/or people from outside of the university. When possible, people related to a student's field or major will attend the presentation.

The Capstone Experience will take place at the end of the student's completion of the requirements for the Leadership Certificate program, but prior to a student's graduation.

Requirements

Below are the guidelines for organizing the Capstone Experience:

- The presentation should be 20-25 minutes in length.
- Utilize any audio/visual, technological, display or other materials appropriate for the presentation.
- Provide copies of fliers, meeting notes, projects and programs, evaluations, etc., that were a part of the student's leadership experiences while at WOU.
- The presentation should be professional and appropriate to audience. The format, however, is flexible to the student's style and interests.

Structure

The focus of the Capstone Experience presentation should be the six learning outcomes that were associated with the program. A successful presentation will address leadership experiences in the context of what was learned in each of these six areas.

For example, if a student wanted to address the "Communication" competency, they might discuss written skills when soliciting funds for an event or program. Verbal communication skills might be demonstrated through small group leadership and facilitation or public speaking.

Recommendations

The Capstone Experience should be a demonstration and exhibition of learning from the student's leadership experiences. Here are some ideas on what you might wish to focus on for the presentation:

- Provide an overview of leadership experiences while attending Western Oregon University.
- How has the student changed as a person or leader since starting at Western Oregon University? How have the leadership experiences influenced that?
- What skills has the student learned? Demonstrate these new skills during the presentation, if applicable.
- When examining all of the student's leadership experiences, why did the student decide to be involved with these particular activities? How do these experiences prepare the student for life after graduation from WOU?
- How has the student's leadership and involvement made WOU (or the community) a better place?
- What has been the role of service and diversity in the student's experiences? How have these areas influenced future aspirations?
- What has the student created? What works projects, programs and new ideas were generated because of the student's involvement on campus?

- Provide letters or additional feedback from advisors, faculty, supervisors, colleagues or other students about the student's leadership performance.
- Other areas as appropriate. Communicate with a Program Director about specific questions regarding the Capstone Experience.

Logistics

Make sure to contact the Program Director a term prior to the Capstone Experience to schedule the day/time for the presentation. The Student Leadership & Activities office will arrange for rooms, presentation audience and A/V needs. Please submit your A/V needs at least two weeks in advance of your Capstone Experience date.