



BROWN

## Introduction

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### BUE Capstone Declaration Form

This form is intended for students in their senior year in Biology AB or Health and Human Biology AB and should be completed the semester you are fulfilling your capstone requirement.

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Concentration



## Biology AB Options

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### Biology AB Capstone Options

1. Advanced BIOL Course - Appropriate BIOL designated courses at the senior/graduate level, structured to facilitate discussion and depth of learning, and which have a formal opportunity to demonstrate critical and independent thinking through a final paper and/or project that challenges the student to draw on the knowledge and skills acquired in the concentration. The final capstone product should take the form of a substantial research paper/project that goes beyond a typical term paper by paying closer attention to an overarching question or aim, methodology, consideration of evidence, and context within a sub-disciplinary field of interest. Approved capstone courses with appropriate paper/project assignments include: BIOL: 1100, 1250, 1515, 1555, 1565, 1575, 1600, 1820, 1970. Courses over the 2000 level may be used with the approval of Dean Achilli.

2. Independent Study Course (BIOL 1950 fall, BIOL 1960 spring) - Students may develop an independent research / study experience with a Brown faculty member

in the Division of Biology and Medicine (BioMed). The project may take place over one or two semesters and should build on the student's biological course work and specific interests in the concentration. Such capstone experiences may take the form of laboratory work, field research, advanced literature surveys with meta-analyses, scientific writing, etc. When independent study is used to satisfy the capstone for the Biology AB, the final product should take the form of a substantial research paper/project that goes beyond a typical term paper by paying closer attention to an overarching question or aim, methodology, consideration of evidence, and context within a sub-disciplinary field of interest. Students will register for BIOL 1950 or 1960 with a BioMed faculty member and submit the required independent study project proposal via Biology Undergraduate Education's website. Information on Biology Independent Study courses and the proposal form may be found on the BUE website.

3. Senior Thesis - Students developing a senior thesis in Biology may use the thesis to satisfy the Biology AB capstone requirement. A senior thesis in Biology is a substantial body of original scholarly research. Successful theses can be grounded in a number of methodological approaches including bench or field research, clinical study, mathematical models, computer simulations, meta-analyses that test hypotheses or yield new synthesis in a scholarly context. Regardless of the approach, successful theses will be inquiry-based and demonstrate contextual understanding of the work, formal assessment of scientific information, critical thinking, clear communication and a high level of independence. Students will register for BIOL 1950/1960 to support the thesis. Information on theses in the Biological Sciences may be found [here](#). Information on Biology Independent Study courses and the proposal form may be found on the BUE website.

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## **HHB Capstone Options**

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### **Health and Human Biology AB Capstone Options**

1. Independent research/study - Students may develop an independent research or independent study experience with a Brown faculty member. The project may take place over one or two semesters and should build on the student's biological and/or thematic interests in the concentration. Students should register for BIOL

1950/1960 if working with a BioMed faculty member. Students pursuing independent course work with a faculty member outside of Biology will register for the appropriate independent study course in that faculty member's department. Students writing a senior thesis may use this to satisfy the capstone experience if the project is related to the concentration pursuits. At the time of declaration, concentrators enter either BIOL 1950 or BIOL 1960 as a placeholder for this option in ASK. The entry can be edited as necessary (i.e. if independent study is selected in a different department) once a specific project has been developed.

2. Advanced Seminar - Seminars that fulfill the capstone requirement are senior/graduate level, capped to a size that facilitates advanced discussion (max 15 students) and include assignments that offer a clear opportunity to demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the concentration (i.e. final papers and projects). A list of pre-approved seminar courses can be found in the [PDF document located here](#). Not all of these courses are offered every year so students should consult COURSES@BROWN for the most up to date schedule. Seminars that are not included on this list but do meet the requirements listed above may be substituted with advisor approval. At the time of declaration, concentrators enter the course code for the chosen seminar as a placeholder for this option in ASK.

3. Off campus experience coupled with independent study - Students may couple an off campus experience related to the concentration with a semester of independent study mentored by a Brown faculty member. For example a student may spend time over the summer prior to the senior year, or during the academic year, volunteering at a human health related organization, working on off campus research (perhaps in the hospitals or at RI Department of Health), or pursuing a similar in depth experience. Such experiences should culminate in a formal faculty-mentored independent study (i.e. BIOL 1950/1960) where the work is fully developed and presented based on a set of goals agreed upon by the student and mentor. Capstones such as these embrace many possibilities. Students should work with a faculty sponsor and the concentration advisor to determine what best suits their personal learning goals. At the time of declaration, concentrators enter either BIOL 1950 or BIOL 1960 as a placeholder for this option in ASK.

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## Student Information

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Below is the information we have automatically collected via Shibboleth. Please ensure this is correct.

First Name: \${e://Field/Student%20First%20Name}

Last Name: \${e://Field/Student%20Last%20Name}

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Enter your Banner ID (Nine character number beginning with a "B")

Which semester will you be completing the capstone requirement?

- ☐ Fall 2022
  - ☐ Spring 2023
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What method will you use to fulfill the capstone requirement?

- ☐ Independent study course
  - ☐ Senior thesis
  - ☐ Advanced BIOL course (Bio AB only)
  - ☐ Advanced seminar (HHB only)
  - ☐ Off campus experience with independent study (HHB only)
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For the advanced BIOL or seminar course, provide course instructor name

Indicate the course number for the advanced BIOL course below

- ☐ BIOL 1100
- ☐ BIOL 1250
- ☐ BIOL 1515
- ☐ BIOL 1555
- ☐ BIOL 1565
- ☐ BIOL 1575

- ☐ BIOL 1600
  - ☐ BIOL 1820
  - ☐ BIOL 1970
  - ☐  Other (please specify):
- 

Indicate the course number for the advanced seminar below

- ☐ AFRI 1930
  - ☐ AMST 1601
  - ☐ BIOL 1945
  - ☐ HIST 1977I
  - ☐ PHP 1680T
  - ☐ PHP 1920
  - ☐ PLCY 1700K
  - ☐ STS 1700P
  - ☐ Tri-Lab
  - ☐ GISP
  - ☐  Other (please specify):
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Are you being compensated for this capstone experience?

- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
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## STUDENT CAPSTONE CONFIRMATION AND AGREEMENT

By submitting this application, I agree to and understand all the stipulations and requirements for this capstone requirement.

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**Student Signature**

**SIGN HERE**



clear

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

**Course Instructor Brown University Email Address**

A copy of your responses will be sent to the advanced BIOL or advanced seminar course instructor.

**PI / Faculty Sponsor Brown University Email Address**

A copy of your responses will be sent to your PI / Advisor.

**Concentration Advisor Brown University Email Address**

A copy of your responses will be sent to your concentration advisor.