

MAT 502: Capstone Preparation

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Course Outline and Objectives: The sole objective of this course is to choose a topic for your Senior Capstone Project in Mathematics and to make substantial progress toward researching the chosen topic. Successful completion of these objectives will prepare each student to write and complete a capstone paper in MAT 485 in Term 6.

Each student is expected to meet with the course coordinator at least once in Term 1, at least twice in Term 2, and three times in each of Terms 3 and 4. Meetings in Terms 1 and 2 will be individual one-on-one consultations. Meetings in Terms 3 and 4 will be conducted as a group.

Besides the meeting times, each student is expected to make progress on their capstone work between meetings. What constitutes “progress” will vary depending on the level of difficulty of the topic chosen for the capstone.

Grading: Every student begins with a grade of A in the course. From this starting point grades can drop by (1) A full letter grade (i.e., A to B, B to C, etc.) or by (2) A partial grade increment (i.e., A to A−, B+ to B, etc.).

These penalties will be assessed whenever a student fails to meet with the course coordinator, and whenever a student fails to make adequate progress in capstone preparation.

Failure to Meet

Each time a student fails to meet with the course coordinator will result in the loss of a full letter grade. “Failure to meet” is defined as follows:

- (i) The student fails to respond to requests to schedule a meeting, and because of this, does not meet with the course coordinator for the required number of times in a term.
- (ii) The student fails to attend a scheduled meeting more than one time. In this case, each failure beyond the first one will result in a full letter grade drop in the final course grade.

Failure to Make Progress

At any meeting, the course coordinator may warn a student that he or she is not making sufficient progress on the chosen capstone topic. After one warning, each time the student fails to make progress will result in a partial grade increment drop in the for the final course grade.

Note: A final grade of F in the MAT 502, means that you will not be allowed to enroll in MAT 485 and you will not be able to complete a major in Mathematics and Statistics. Students with a final grade of C+ down to D– in MAT 502 may be inadequately prepared to finish their capstone project in MAT 485.

Academic Honesty: Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the Colleges requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading “Academic Honesty.”

Disabilities: Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml.

If you have concerns about any condition (documented or not) you think will hamper your ability to succeed in this course, you should notify me within the first three days of class.

If you have questions about documentation, you can obtain more information at www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/ or from

Brooke Paulsen (309 Cole Library).