



DREW'S

# SENIOR PROJECT PLAYBOOK



A GUIDE FOR SENIORS



## THE GOAL

We know that meaningful learning happens outside of academic classrooms. Whether it is on the soccer field, behind the scenes in the theater, or at a job site, these spaces provide opportunities for you to learn new skills and transfer your disciplinary learning to new contexts. We culminate senior year with a student-designed project to give students you opportunity to challenge yourself to practice communication and collaboration outside of the classroom and learn through self-discovery, independence, and experiential learning.

## YOUR GUIDING QUESTIONS

What are you passionate about?

What would you create if you had more time and support?

How can you use your skills to make a difference?

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Senior Seminar  
Curriculum

03

Senior Project  
Tracks

02

Senior Project  
Mentorship

04

Student Support  
and Assessment



**SENIOR SEMINAR FOLLOWS A CURRICULUM  
THAT INCLUDES THE SAME CORE  
COMPONENTS FOR ALL PROJECTS**

**PERSONALIZATION**

**RESEARCH REVIEW**

**ACTION PLAN**

**PROPOSAL DEFENSE**

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATES**

**SENIOR SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION**



# SENIOR SEMINAR

- January 15- April 16 during EE time (10 classes)
- All senior seminar time is structured and your attendance is required. It is a pass/fail class with a gradebook on DrewNet
  - You must pass senior seminar in order to fulfill your senior project graduation requirement.
- We use this time to actively work on the requirements for your project. This is the time your mentors will be available to support you.





# SENIOR PROJECT

- A self-designed project that you get approved through your assignments during senior seminar.
- There are three track options
  - Creative Capstone
  - Community Impact Project
  - Drew Internship
- You complete your project in April and May.
  - The last day of classes for seniors is Friday 5/9 giving two weeks free of classes in May to focus on project work.
  - You will have due dates for project updates during these months.
- All seniors will return to campus on Friday 5/16 for a require workshop to prepare for senior symposium.
- All seniors present their work to families at senior symposium on 5/21



During the first few weeks of seminar,  
you will choose a project track

## **CREATIVE CAPSTONE TRACK**

Students develop a capstone creative project that is shared in a public gallery before the senior symposium. Creative skills can include visual arts, performance art, or engineering and design.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT TRACK**

Students design a solution-oriented project that addresses a real-world problem. Students focus on leaving a lasting positive impact on their community.

## **INTERNSHIP TRACK**

Students learn from hands-on real-world experience and mentorship. Students spend at least 30 hours working in the field and reflect on what they learn.

**More specific information on  
each track is on pg. 5**

# SENIOR SEMINAR CURRICULUM TIMELINE

## JANUARY

- Identify skills, interests, and opportunities
- Family Info Night 1/15
- Choose project track and start research review
- Internship application release

- Research review submission
- Action plan development
- Internship application due

## FEBRUARY

## MARCH

- Proposal Defenses and project approval
- Internship placement announcement

- Project Implementation begins
- Mid-project update

## APRIL

## MAY

- Seniors last day 5/9
- Mid project update and symposium preparation 5/16
- Internship Tracking
- Senior Project Gallery and Symposium 5/21

# Who is here to help you?

**KIM MCCABE**

**DIRECTOR OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Go to Kim to brainstorm project ideas, clarify expectations, or discuss options.

**MARIA LOPEZ-LARIOS**

**ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS**

Maria will reach out to you if you are behind on your project requirements and set up a plan for additional support.

**SENIOR PROJECT MENTORS**

**(ALL SENIOR ADVISORS)**

These mentors will actively work with you during seminar time to develop your ideas through our seminar curriculum. They will offer you guidance and feedback as they support and assess your work.

All of these people will be available during senior seminar time to support you. If you need additional support we will schedule it during flex or lunch time.

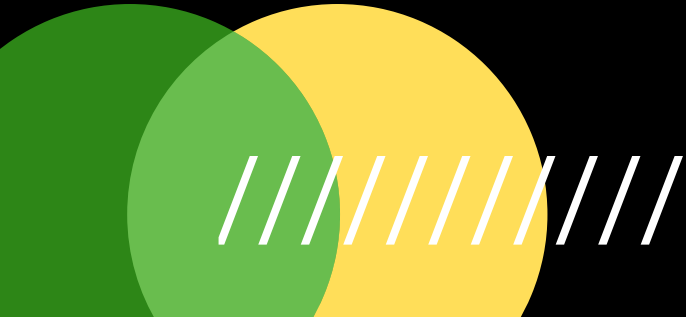




# CREATIVE CAPSTONE TRACK

- This track is for students who have shown a commitment to a creative interest and want to push themselves to develop a capstone project that highlights their skill and learning in this field.
- These projects must include at least 30 hours of work in May.
- You must keep your senior project mentor updated as you meet short term goals and make progress.
- Your creative work will be displayed in a public gallery before senior symposium.
- Your symposium presentation will focus on your journey as a creator, your creative vision, and the challenges, successes, and outcomes of your project.

## Project examples

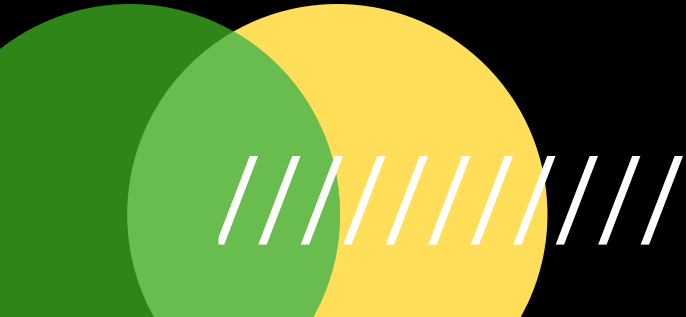
- Performing arts: A student directed one-act play
  - Engineering and design: A student designed and 3D printed prosthetic limb display
  - Visual Art: The student lounge mural
- 



# COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT TRACK

- For this track, you will reflect on your personal growth which at Drew and draw on your passions and skills to design a project that addresses a real-world problem that you care about.
- Your project will focus on leaving a lasting positive impact on your community.
- These projects must show sustained effort through April and May to achieve the goals you will outline in your action plan.
- You will update your advisor as you meet short-term goals and make progress
- At senior symposium you will publicly present your problem statement, plan of action, and the challenges, achievements, and outcomes of your project.

## Project Examples

- Students inventoried, organized, and displayed the school archive of items from the past nearly 100 years.
  - Student designed and led mental-health workshops.
  - Students created an interview-based film to educate about the impacts of homelessness and reduce stigma.
- 



# INTERNSHIP TRACK

For this track, students will submit an application for a two-week unpaid internship provided by Drew. These internships run from 5/12-5/23 2025.

Internship slots are limited and not guaranteed.

Internship candidates must also complete all components for either a creative capstone or community impact project as a backup option if they do not secure an internship.

Internship placements will be announced by 3/1.

If you secure one of our internship options, you no longer need to follow through on your developing action plan. Instead you will:

- Research to prepare for your internship experience by learning about the role, the career field, and relevant topics.
- Submit an internship work schedule with your internship supervisor and parent's signature.
- Complete at least 30 hours of work between your last day of classes and senior symposium. Submit daily blog updates about your experience and outcomes.
- Publicly present about what you learned and how you grew through your internship experience at senior symposium.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **When do I start working on my senior project?**

We will begin developing your project ideas when senior seminar starts on January 15th. We will also hold a family information night that week to loop in your families to the expectations and timeline.

### **Can I work in a group?**

We do allow two people to work on the same project. In order to get this approved you must show your plan for both people to contribute work and both people must submit project updates separately.

### **Who evaluates my senior project?**

Your senior project mentor will update your gradebook to show that you are meeting project requirements. You must pass all the senior project gradebook assignments in order to meet your graduation requirement for this pass/fail course. Additional reviewers will be invited to your proposal defense and symposium presentation to evaluate your work. Students with exemplary work will earn an honors grade and may be nominated to present their work to the whole school.

