



AOPA | YOU CAN FLY
HIGH SCHOOLS

PROPRIETARY

UNIT 5 | SECTION A | LESSON 1 | PRESENTATION

WHAT IS A CAPSTONE



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- **Match** personal interests with their aviation career goals.
- **Identify** possible capstone projects.
- **Assess** prior course content, their skills, and their knowledge to develop a capstone project.
- **Organize** personal and course experiences and accomplishments for inclusion in a stackable credential portfolio.



WARM-UP



Editorial credit: Colorado Dept. of Transportation



VIDEO

WARM-UP

Answer the following questions.

- Thinking of the various careers you have learned about so far in AOPA's curriculum, which do you find the most interesting? Why?
- What are some ways you can think of that you could pursue your hobbies or personal interests within the aviation industry?

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WHAT IS A CAPSTONE?

A culminating, student-directed experience that represents your . . .

- Reflections on the course material
- Knowledge, skills, and experiences
- Curiosity about aviation
- Inspirations and aspirations

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CAPSTONE EXPECTATIONS

1. Decide on an idea for a project.
2. Draft and defend a project proposal.
3. Find a mentor.
4. Define research questions and conduct research.
5. Maintain a research notebook.
6. Write a research paper.
7. Give a formal presentation.



A VARIETY OF POSSIBILITIES

As you watch this video, note the different kinds of projects.



VIDEO



Editorial credit: MaineDOEComm

A VARIETY OF POSSIBILITIES

Answer the following questions.

- Think about the capstone projects that were highlighted in the video. Was there one example that stood out to you?
- What were some of your favorite lessons or experiences in the aviation classes you've taken so far?
- What are you curious to learn more about, if you had the opportunity?

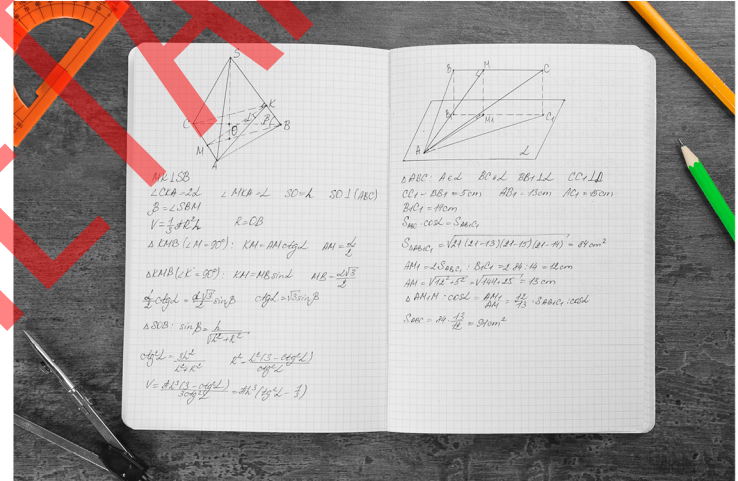
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THE RESEARCH NOTEBOOK

- You will keep a research notebook documenting all aspects of the project, from start to finish.
- The notebook must have lined paper and a sewn binding.
- You will follow a specific protocol for setting up and maintaining your notebook.
 - This will legally protect your ideas as intellectual property.



CAPSTONE PROJECT IDEAS

Working with a partner, complete Student Activity 1.

1. Reflect on your research proposal from last semester.
2. Brainstorm possible ideas for other capstone projects.
3. Rank these ideas in order by interest.



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THINKING AHEAD

Consider the ideas that you and your partner brainstormed, as well as the topic that you researched in Unit 4 last semester.

- Choose one of these ideas or topics and write a paragraph or two about how you might develop it into a capstone project.
- Explain how this project would relate to your career goals.



WARM-UP

As you watch this video, note what training and education might be necessary for the careers in this video.



VIDEO



Editorial credit: AAAEDelivers

WARM-UP

Answer the following questions.

- *What training and education might be necessary for the careers in the video?*
- *Do you already possess any of this training or education?*

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CHARTING YOUR CAREER GOALS

Are you ready for the job?

Complete Student Activity 2.

1. Using a job search engine, find a job posting in your “dream” career path.
2. Identify the qualifications and requirements for this job.
 - a. Which do you currently have?
 - b. What next steps could you take to obtain these qualifications and requirements?



STACKABLE CREDENTIALS

Credentials are required for every job opportunity.

- *Credentials* are achievements or qualifications that give someone the ability or authority to complete a task or pursue a goal.
- *Stackable credentials*, according to the U. S. Department of Labor, are “part of a sequence of credentials accumulated over time to build up an individual’s qualification to help them move along a career pathway or up a career ladder to potentially different and higher paying jobs.”

Why does the U.S. Department of Labor describe certain credentials as “stackable”? What does *stackable* mean in this context?



CREDENTIALS CHECKLIST

Read through the **Credentials Checklist** in **Student Activity 3**

- **Apply each criterion in the checklist to the FAA commercial pilot certificate.**

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EVALUATE YOUR CREDENTIALS

Complete Student Activity 3.

1. Identify credentials that you have earned.
2. Use the Credentials Checklist to evaluate each credential.

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