

## GPS Capstone: Overview & Guidelines

Every student takes a slightly different path through the GPS Program; however, all students must submit a GPS Capstone that includes an objective (1), a purpose (2), a process (3), a product (4), a presentation (5), and a reflection (6). The GPS Capstone encourages students to apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting, such as a university and in the real world. It encourages students to demonstrate their learning and gained experience, and to show that

## 2. Written personal narrative (500-700 words):

- The written narrative should read like an answer to the *Tell me about yourself* question. Imagine you've entered a conversation with someone who can help you achieve your objective (a hiring manager, admissions counselor, investor, research grant committee, etc.), and that person has just said, "Thanks for coming by today, why don't you begin by telling me/us about yourself". What would you say? Your written narrative should be something you could deliver orally in 3-5 minutes maximum.
- The written narrative should include a STAR story (details in text box below) that showcases both your understanding of the complexities and challenges of real-world concerns and, as well as your creative capacity to address these challenges and concerns.

## 3. Visual submission (multiple formats possible):

- Your visual submission can take a variety of forms, however frequently used formats include PowerPoint, Prezi, LinkedIn profiles, personal websites/portfolios, well-crafted resumes, and videos. Your visual submission should be something that serves you in real life and that has the potential to help you achieve your objective as something that you can potentially share with decision-makers. The visual submission will capture the variety

**WHAT MAKES A GREAT CAPSTONE SUBMISSION:**

**Great submissions start with a clear objective.**

As described above, the objective helps you decide how you should present yourself L4 ( )10-4.4 ( y)3.42(3-411(2.875)

**SAMPLE CAPSTONE SUBMISSION: Troy Obernolte ('23):**

Visual Submission: [GPS Presentation.pptx](#)

Objective: To provide the world with clean energy.

Narrative: I was born in Big Bear Lake, a small mountain town in Southern California. I would travel often, both within the United States and abroad. Although I had visited all seven continents by the age of thirteen, I never felt that I really had known other cultures apart from just seeing. Similarly, I had diverse experiences in High School such as SCUBA diving, earning my pilot's license at the age of seventeen, and performing in both the Sydney Opera House and Carnegie Hall. When I graduated top of my High School class, I matriculated at the California Institute of Technology, an elite STEM university that primarily focuses on chemistry and rocket science to pursue my interests in quantitative studies.

At Caltech, I was very challenged academically, although I wasn't stimulated. My friends and colleagues were content to spend their lives in a lab working on one technology, but I wasn't. I wanted to study how many different technologies worked together to solve problems on a global scale. When the world was at a standstill due to COVID, I transferred to the American University of Paris. At AUP, I was able to pursue many of my interests at once. Double majoring in International Business Administration and Mathematics and Computer Science has taught me how to develop technology and effectively deploy it on a global scale. There is no better illustration of this than my two senior theses on Machine Learning and Energy Systems analysis. Additionally, living in Paris has allowed me to learn different cultures while cultivating a third language. I have spent my Summers working for the Congress of the United States with the Energy and Commerce Committee working on energy policy.

I had come to the crossroads: what would I do with my life? When I reviewed my passions, the common theme from designing rockets to making harmonies to flying planes was energy. I knew that my future would not be confined to any country. I want my future career in energy to be without disciplinary or national borders.

This May, I will be graduating Summa Cum Laude with Honors in both my academic departments. My academic experience will be continued at the University of Oxford in their Masters in Energy Systems program, where I will learn about the science behind energy generation, economics of distribution, and political science behind decision making. Upon graduation, I plan to continue my work in crafting clean energy policy in Congress or potentially pursue a role in an international energy infrastructure company. By combining my diverse experiences, academic passion, and natural curiosity, I am confident that I will be able to achieve my goal of providing the world with clean energy.