The Russian Studies major is a designated capstone major. Students must complete a capstone seminar and present their final paper in the department’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference. Through their capstone work, students are expected to:

- incorporate knowledge acquired in Major courses to formulate an independent study topic and design a research project.

- select and use original sources in Russian or another Slavic or East European language to prepare a senior thesis.

- acquire skills relating to the development of discourse and argumentation that is clear, reasoned, reflective, informed by evidence, and aimed at deciding what to believe, and determine what information is to be developed and analyzed.

- complete the actual conference presentation, including fielding questions from the audience.

- master oral communication, including interpersonal communication (peer-to-peer and student-to-instructor) as well as presentations and discussions.

- edit the research paper to turn it into a journal article and submit it to an academic journal.