

Executive Summary

Blueprint for Academic Excellence Capstone AY2022-2023

Highlights

The Capstone Scholars Program enrolled approximately 1,400 1st-year Capstone Scholars in Fall 2021 from over 35 states. Total enrollment of the Capstone Scholars Program is at nearly 2,800 1st and 2nd year students with our 1st year cohort representing nearly 23% of all 1st year UofSC students.

Capstone Scholars are recognized for their academic achievement and beyond the classroom involvement including service to the community, leadership, campus engagement, undergraduate research, and study abroad experiences.

Capstone Scholars are successful in the classroom with a 3.6 average cumulative UofSC GPA as of the end of the 2020/2021 academic year with 93% of all Capstone Scholars finishing the year with a 3.0GPA or above.

Mission Statement

Support high-ability students as they grow beyond the classroom and become well-rounded scholars; Provide the Capstone Scholars community opportunities to explore research, career readiness, diversity & global learning, community engagement, common academic experiences, and personal wellness.

Vision Statement

Updated: 02/01/2019

We aim to provide an environment that will give high-ability students the opportunity to be successful within and beyond the classroom. We value learning, self-authorship, service, discovery, personal integrity, teamwork, leadership, self-efficacy, and community.

Values Statement

Updated: 02/01/2019

All Capstone Scholars will be globally aware, locally active, lifelong learners and leaders.

Updated: 02/01/2019

Table Of Content

Executive Summary	1
Highlights	1
Mission Statement	1
Vision Statement	1
Values Statement	1
Goals - Looking Back	3
Goals - Real Time	4
Goals - Looking Ahead	14
Programs or Initiatives	22
Effective Programs or Initiatives	22
Program Launches	22
Program Terminations	23
Program Rankings	23
Initiatives and Fees	24
Initiatives	24
Fees	24
Community Engagement	25
Community Perceptions	25
Collaborations	26
Internal Collaborations	26
External Collaborations	26
Campus Climate and Inclusion	27
Campus Climate and Inclusion	27
Concluding Remarks	28
Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement	28
Key Issues	28
Quantitative Outcomes	28
Cool Stuff	29

Goals - Looking Back

No goals have been entered for this section.

Goals - Real Time

Goals for the current Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Support for academic attainment

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	<p>Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be academically successful and retain the scholarships they were awarded as incoming freshman. Additionally, for students to get involved in study abroad, research, and more, students must be academically successful in the classroom to qualify for a variety of experiences that we also promote. With many of our students being non-SC residents, it's important that our students maintain scholarships in order to help with retention to the 2nd and 3rd year.</p>
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	<p>Capstone Scholars are required to take a Capstone Scholars section of University 101 (with a few exceptions). Capstone Scholars specific sections of English 101 and 102. Academic requirement for all Capstone Scholars is to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA each semester. Partner with Student Success Center to create new "Success Consultations" for students having a GPA between 2.0-3.0. Adulting workshops geared towards life skills as well as habits of success such as Time Management.</p>
Achievements	<p>We enrolled a similar number of students this year as compared to last year (1,400 vs 1,500), and maintained the academic profile and GPA performance of previous years through our partnership with University 101, First-Year English Programs, College of Engineering and Computing, and Student Success Center.</p> <p>We enrolled approximately 1,400 new 1st year Capstone Scholars for</p>

Goals - Real Time

	<p>the Fall 21 semester, and in partnership with University 101, offered 51 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 courses. In total, 88% of 1st year Capstone Scholars were enrolled in UNIV 101 (1,221 students). Of those in UNIV 101, 79% enrolled in Capstone Scholars sections (969 students). We offered 16 Capstone Scholars English 101/102 courses with special themes which enrolled a total of 337 students. Two Spring 2020 University 290 courses were offered with international travel components.</p> <p>50 students graduated the 8 week program in Spring 2021, 4 credited sections co-taught by 3 staff instructors, 1 grad instructor, and 3 peer-instructors. For the first time, the program culminated in a poster session highlighting their campus impact plans and was attended by staff, students, and campus partners relevant to their focus areas.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the 2020/2021 academic year, the average cumulative institutional GPA of all Capstone Scholars was a 3.6 with 93% of all Capstone Scholars finishing the year with a 3.0GPA or above (important for scholarship retention). First to 2nd-year retention rate was above 90%.</p>
<p>Resources Utilized</p>	<p>Approximately \$3,300 was spent towards the academic partnerships with First Year English Programs. Due to COVID we were unable to offer study abroad programs and their respective courses, thus no expenses utilized.</p>
<p>Goal Continuation</p>	<p>Due to the nature of our high-ability students, this goal continue for the foreseeable future in order to retain students, help students retain their scholarships, and promote an environment which will allow students to be successful in the classroom.</p>
<p>Goal Upcoming Plans</p>	<p>Capstone Scholars-specific courses such as University 101 sections (over 50 sections), themed English 101 and 102 courses, University 290 (leadership course and spring break service-learning), Maymester programs, and 15 seats reserved for Capstone Scholars in SLIS 202.</p> <p>University 101 requirement for all Capstone Scholars.</p> <p>Partnership with Student Success Center for students who fall below a 3.0 GPA.</p> <p>All Capstone Scholars are required to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA (to maintain University scholarships).</p>
<p>Resources Needed</p>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$900,000 for FY22.</p>
<p>Goal Notes</p>	

Goals - Real Time

Goal 2 - Connecting students to UofSC

Goal Statement	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing a variety of beyond the classroom experiences, both academically and socially, that will promote opportunity and belonging.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	<p>The student-led Service Team that will provide service experiences and civic engagement training for Capstone Scholars, seek out partnerships with Capstone House to co-sponsor select events on top of what the Capstone Scholars Program already provides.</p> <p>Hot Cookie Friday events will feature select campus partners (such as National Fellowships and Scholar Programs, Office of Undergraduate Research, CIEL, Career Center, and Leadership and Service Center).</p> <p>Offer in-person and virtual "Capstone Consultations" where staff are able to meet one-on-one with 1st and 2nd year Capstone Scholars to help connect students to beyond-the-classroom engagement opportunities.</p> <p>Beginning in Fall 2021, formulate processes to identify students who do not attend events and target for outreach.</p> <p>Partnership with Pillars for Carolina to provide Capstone Scholars-exclusive week for extended orientation</p>
Achievements	We provided events of varying sizes in order to break down our

Goals - Real Time

larger community into smaller communities, whether it be one-on-one meetings with students, social events, leadership courses, service events, etc.

During the current reporting period:

Semester	# of Capstone Scholars	# of Events	# of Capstone Scholars who attended at least one event	% attended an event	# of total event attendance	# of Capstone Scholars who attended an event OR a Capstone Scholars course*
Fall 2020	2924	52	535	18%	980	1242
Spring 2021	2944	52	485	16%	1082	595
Fall 2021 as of 9.17.21	2722	16	877	32%	1756	unknown at this point
Cohort (as of 9.17.21)	# of Capstone Scholars	# of Capstone Scholars who attended at least one event		% attended an event	# of total event attendance	
First Years	1421	777		55%	1611	

Goals - Real Time

	Second Years	1298	100	8%	145
	Total	2719	877	32%	1756
	<p>Pillars for Carolina partnership: 94 incoming Capstone Scholars attended the Capstone week. 90% agreed that they feel more connected to the campus community as a result of the experience. (n=62)-100% were satisfied with their ability to build meaningful relationships with fellow first-year students and 98% were satisfied with their ability to build relationships with upperclassmen XMs (n=62)-100% of XMs said this experience developed their skills to foster a sense of community, lead small group activities, and build confidence in leading small group experiences. 100% were satisfied with their experience as an XM leader. (n=9)</p>				
Resources Utilized	<p>Approximately \$70,000 was spent on supplies during this reporting period including food, supplies, rentals, and other miscellaneous costs to support events.</p>				
Goal Continuation	<p>Connecting students to opportunities outside of the Capstone Scholars community is an important aspect of our program (a majority of our students live outside the LLC) so specialized programming aimed to bring students together across multiple living environments will continue to be a priority on an on-going basis.</p>				
Goal Upcoming Plans	<p>Major program initiatives will continue throughout the entirety of the current academic year.</p> <p>Partner with Admissions, Housing, and Campus other campus partners to recruit and support students from minority populations. Provide training and events to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.</p>				
Resources Needed	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is over \$800,000 for FY22.</p>				
Goal Notes					

Goals - Real Time

Goal 3 - Connections to Faculty Principal

Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing an environment in which students connect to the Faculty Principal and the University of Housing LLC staff through events and one-on-one meetings.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	<p>Utilized EAB Navigate to create one-on-one student meetings with Faculty Principal in addition to the Capstone Scholars' staff one-on-one Capstone Consultation meetings.</p> <p>Faculty Principal led service-learning study abroad program over spring break.</p> <p>Social events outside of the LLC offerings to allow students to meet with Faculty Principal and partner offices.</p>
Achievements	<p>During New Student Orientation, the Faculty Principal interacted with approximately 1,400 1st year Capstone scholars.</p> <p>The Faculty Principal has had approximately 1,500 interactions with students at select Capstone Scholars events in Fall 2021, just within the first half of the semester, primarily at the Carolina Welcome event "Welcome Bash" and Hot Cookie Friday events including Family Weekend.</p> <p>The Faculty Principal also holds drop-in hours for Capstone Scholars throughout the week during the Fall 2021 semester.</p>
Resources Utilized	

Goals - Real Time

Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	We continue to involve the Faculty Principal in key events such as Hot Cookie Friday, one-on-one appointments, and academic partnerships with various UofSC colleges and schools.
Resources Needed	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is over \$800,000 for FY22.
Goal Notes	COVID-19 impacted many areas during this reporting period.

Goals - Real Time

Goal 4 - High-Ability Student Achievement

Goal Statement	Work with high-ability students predicted to excel in the classroom and enable them to reach their full high-performing potential in and beyond the classroom
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Because our program is designed to enroll high-ability students, we aim to provide programming and opportunities that will enable these students to be successful. We provide one-on-one meetings, course offerings, dedicated programming, grant opportunities, and the ability to earn further distinction that will enable them to be eligible for future awards such as Graduation with Leadership Distinction and National Fellowships.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	<p>Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course (utilizing the University 101 office's U290 course for course credit)</p> <p>Capstone Connector leaders</p> <p>Student Leadership Retreat</p> <p>Programming Council leaders</p> <p>Capstone Scholars grants including Passport Travel Grant, Magellan Apprentice, and Professional Development Grant</p> <p>Service Team leaders</p> <p>Service-Learning experiences</p> <p>Adulting Workshop series</p> <p>Capstone Fellows distinction</p> <p>Capstone Consultations</p> <p>Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p>
Achievements	<p>Our focus on providing experiences to enable high-ability students who've enrolled at the University as a Capstone Scholar to engage in beyond-the-classroom experiences continues to pay off. This is evident in our retention rates (1st-2nd year retention continues to exceed 90%) and graduation rates (see Concluding Remarks for more details)</p> <p>Out of the 2019-2021 cohort of Capstone Scholars, 62 were named Capstone Fellows this year due to their academic and beyond-the-classroom achievement. There are currently 164 total Capstone Fellows (between 3rd and 4th year students).</p>

Goals - Real Time

	<p>Spring 2021 CSLP -50 students graduated the 8 week program in Spring 2021, 4 credited sections co-taught by 3 staff instructors, 1 grad instructor, and 3 peer-instructors. For the first time, the program culminated in a poster session highlighting their campus impact plans and was attended by staff, students, and campus partners relevant to their focus areas.</p> <p>During the 20/21 year, 18 Capstone Scholars were awarded the \$1,000 Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research Grant. During the same reporting period, over \$14,300 were awarded Capstone Fellows for the Professional Development Grant. Due to COVID impacted study abroad programs, no Passport Travel Grants were awarded.</p> <p>Regarding service team initiatives, over 1,800 hours of service to the campus and state of South Carolina and over 460 hours of service-based education to current students at 38 events in the 20/21 academic year. We served at 13 non-profit agencies and filled 842 total volunteer spots with 348 unique volunteers (1 in 3 volunteers served multiple times)</p>
<p>Resources Utilized</p>	<p>Grant funding was awarded to Capstone Scholars and Capstone Fellows during this reporting period. These awards were provided in the form the Magellan Apprentice Grant for faculty-mentored undergraduate research and the Professional Development Grant to fund student conference travel, professional memberships, and testing fees for graduate school. However, due to COVID, study abroad programs were not offered as well as our Passport Travel Grant.</p>
<p>Goal Continuation</p>	<p>Developing a culture of engagement and self-authorship for high-ability students is an ongoing goal for our program.</p>
<p>Goal Upcoming Plans</p>	<p>We continue to evaluate all programs and initiatives as we begin strategic planning with the new Faculty Principal. Plans for this current reporting period.</p>
<p>Resources Needed</p>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is over \$800,000 for FY22.</p>
<p>Goal Notes</p>	<p>Compared to the 2019-2020 year, a higher number of Capstone Scholars in the 2020-2021 year registered their research projects in the Office of Undergraduate Research registry. There were 122 total projects registered (Fall 2020 - 49, Spring 21 - 64, Summer 21 - 9) by Capstone Scholars. Compared to previous year of 116 project registrations.</p> <p>Due to the cancellation of Maymester and Summer study abroad programs, the Passport Travel Grant was not able to be awarded to students who had applied and received their grant acceptance.</p>

Goals - Real Time

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Goals - Looking Ahead

Goals for the next Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Support for academic attainment

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments and encourage engagement and high impact practices that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	<p>Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be academically successful and retain the scholarships they were awarded as incoming freshman. Additionally, for students to get involved in study abroad, research, and more, students must be academically successful in the classroom to qualify for a variety of experiences that we also promote. With many of our students being non-SC residents, it's important that our students maintain scholarships in order to help with retention to the 2nd and 3rd year. We focus on six area for our programming and outreach: common academic experience (U101), community engagement, research, professional development, global and cultural studies, and overall student wellness.</p>
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	<p>Capstone Scholars-specific courses such as University 101 sections (over 60 sections), themed English 101 and 102 courses, ENCP 105 for Capstone Scholars, University 290 (leadership course and spring break service-learning), maymester programs</p> <p>University 101 requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Partnership with Student Success Center for students who fall below a 3.0 GPA</p> <p>All Capstone Scholars are required to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA (to maintain University scholarships)</p> <p>In addition, we provide programming and support in these high impact practices: common academic experience (U101, ENCP, ENG, CSLP), community engagement, research, professional development, global and cultural studies, and overall student</p>

Goals - Looking Ahead

	wellness.
Achievements	<p>This year we still felt the effects of Covid-19 on programming and engagement. We started off Fall 2021 with record attendance at our events and have already passed our engagement numbers from last year.</p> <p>Our GPA and retention rates are higher than the University average. (See Concluding Remarks)</p>
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	<p>We will continue to provide targeted programming and funding for the following areas of the Capstone Scholars program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common academic experience (U101, ENCP, ENG, CSLP), • Community engagement (Service events and leadership opportunities) • Research (Magellan Apprentice grant funding) • Professional development (• llobal and cultural studies, and overall student wellness.
Goal Upcoming Plans	<p>Capstone Scholars specific courses (University 101, English 101/102, ENCP 105, University 290)</p> <p>University 101 requirement for Capstone Scholars</p> <p>GPA requirement for Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Partnership with the SSC for Success Consultations for students who fall between a 2.0-3.0 GPA to aid scholarship retention</p> <p>Study abroad programs (maymester)</p> <p>Provide research grants through the Magellan Apprentice grant program</p>
Resources Needed	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 20/21.</p>
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 2 - Diverse connections to UofSC

Goal Statement	Ensure that students from all groups are connected to UofSC and that all students are exposed to diversity and develop an attitude of inclusiveness and understanding of equity.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. We want our students to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. This goal aligns with our mission in providing a variety of beyond the classroom experiences, both academically and socially, that will promote opportunity and belonging.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Partnership with Pillars for Carolina to provide an extended orientation experience for Capstone Scholars Community Impact requirement for all Capstone Scholars (service/volunteering) Communication/Marketing including social media, weekly newsletters, and website features LLC partnership with Resident Halls Campus Partnerships (including other faculty-led communities) Welcome Week event Service Team events Community Mentorship program Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training and events
Achievements	We continue to rely on campus partnership to help with our community initiatives. Starting at Orientation we instill a sense of community among our incoming class. Events held during Welcome Week and Move-in continue to strengthen our community.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Connecting students to opportunities outside of the Capstone Scholars community is an important aspect of our program (a majority of our students live outside the LLC) so specialized

Goals - Looking Ahead

	programming aimed to bring students together across multiple living environments will continue to be a priority on an on-going basis.
Goal Upcoming Plans	<p>Will continue all current level of programming and partnerships with University Housing, utilizing EAB Navigate for one-on-one student meetings, Service Team will look to expand service offerings, and Host Team will continue connecting students to opportunities in the Columbia area to promote a sense of belonging. Additional plans include:</p> <p>Partnership with Pillars to provide an extended orientation experience for Capstone Scholars Communication/Marketing including social media, weekly newsletters, and website features unique to Capstone Scholars Partnership with Capstone and Columbia Hall LLC Campus Partnerships (including other faculty-led communities) Welcome Week event Service Team events</p>
Resources Needed	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 20/21.
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 3 - Connections to Faculty Principal

Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing an environment in which students connect to the Faculty Principal and the University of Housing LLC staff through events and one-on-one meetings.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	<p>Faculty Principal/student meetings scheduled through Navigate</p> <p>Capstone Scholars staff and the Faculty Principal engaging with the University 101 Capstone Scholars Program</p> <p>Capstone Scholars Etiquette Dinner</p> <p>Study abroad program led by the Faculty Principal</p> <p>Faculty Principal participation in Pillars of Carolina: Capstone Scholars</p>
Achievements	The Faculty Principal routinely participates in recruitment events through the year. Starting in the spring with Visitor Center sessions and Admitted Student Days, students have a chance to engage with Faculty Principal and staff from the program. Throughout the summer, the Faculty Principal attends the Orientations session and Pillars events.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Enhancing resident students' living and learning experiences by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal is an ongoing goal for our program.
Goal Upcoming Plans	<p>Faculty Principal one-on-one meetings</p> <p>Etiquette Dinner</p> <p>Partner with resident halls and other LLCs that have Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Partner with academic deans and directors to co-sponsor events for Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Education Abroad trip during Maymester (SLIS 202)</p>

Goals - Looking Ahead

Resources Needed	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 20/21.
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 4 - Support high-ability students as they grow beyond the classroom and become well-rounded scholars

Goal Statement	provide the Capstone Scholars community opportunities to explore research, career readiness, diversity & global learning, service, common academic experiences, and personal wellness.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders. • Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible. • Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive. • Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Because our program is designed to enroll high-ability students, we aim to provide programming and opportunities that will enable these students to be successful. That is why we provide one-on-one meetings, course offerings, dedicated programming, grant opportunities, and the ability to earn further distinction that will enable them to be eligible for future awards such as Graduation with Leadership Distinction and national fellowships.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course (credit and non-credit bearing) Student Leadership Retreat Capstone Scholars grants including Passport Travel Grant, Magellan Apprentice, and Professional Development Grant Service Team leaders Service-Learning experiences Adulting Workshop series Capstone Fellows distinction Capstone Consultations Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	Developing a culture of engagement and self-authorship for high-ability students is an ongoing goal for our program.
Goal Upcoming Plans	Will continue all Goal 4 initiatives and programs through the end of the academic year (listed below). Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course (credit and non-credit bearing) Capstone Connector leaders

Goals - Looking Ahead

	<p>Student Leadership Retreat Programming Council leaders Capstone Scholars grants including Passport Travel Grant, Magellan Apprentice, and Professional Development Grant Service Team leaders Service Learning experiences Adulting Workshop series Capstone Fellows distinction Capstone Consultations Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p>
Resources Needed	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$1 million for the next fiscal year</p>
Goal Notes	

Programs or Initiatives

Effective Programs or Initiatives

List your most effective programs/initiatives toward fulfillment of mission.

1. Academic partnerships with University 101 and First Year English
2. Hot Cookie Friday - large scale social events that integrate various campus partners (such as Office of Undergraduate Research, CIEL, Education Abroad Office, National Fellowships and Scholar Programs)
3. Grants funding beyond-the-classroom experiences - Magellan Apprentice for Undergraduate Research, Passport Travel Grant for study abroad, and the Professional Development Grant for Capstone Fellows
4. Partnership with Pillars for Carolina to provide a Capstone Scholars-exclusive week of extended orientation
5. Recharge Week w/Health Carolina (a community that shares Columbia Hall with the Capstone Scholars community) focused on mental health, resiliency, stress management, and physical health.
6. Spring 2021 version of our Capstone Scholars Leadership course aimed at 1st and 2nd year students utilizing the University 101 Office's University 290 course.
7. Civic Engagement Certification Series
8. Service Ambassadors

Program Launches

List any programs/initiatives that were newly launched during the Academic Year or any programs/initiatives you would like to launch in the coming year(s). Describe the program/initiatives, provide financial requirements (including additional staff), and academic year in which you would launch. What key performance indicators are you utilizing to track the success of this program?

Engagement/Recruitment

- Letter writing campaign in partnership with Undergraduate Admissions to yield Black SC students to the Capstone Scholars Program
- Capstone Scholars "Host Team" (2nd year students trained to engage with students at events)
- Black Capstone Caucus
- Pride of Capstone
- Focus Groups targeted towards a variety of engaged/unengaged Capstone Scholars
- Outreach campaigns to unengaged Capstone Scholars
- Drop-in hours with Capstone Scholars staff
- Capstone Cup (partnership with U101)

Academics

- Special section of SLIS 202 for Capstone Scholars (15 seats reserved for Capstone Scholars)
- Newly created "Beyond-the-Classroom" grant *official name TBD

Community Engagement

- Partnership with the Psychology Department and Hand Middle School to establish a mentoring program

Programs or Initiatives

Program Terminations

List any programs that were newly terminated or discontinued during the Academic Year. Provide justification as to why the program was discontinued.

Capstone Connectors mentoring program - did not return for academic year 20/21 which was replaced with the Capstone Scholars "Host Team" which is a leadership opportunity for 2nd year students. "Host Team" are students who applied, were selected, and trained to engage with 1st and 2nd year Capstone Scholars at events and reduce the unease a student might have if they attend events by themselves.

Programs terminated (short term) due to COVID-19: Maymester abroad program during May 2021.

Real Talk -DEI initiative that was morphed into the Civic Engagement Training series.

Capstone Consultations -the required nature of 1:1 appointments with students shifted this year, due to a variety of reasons. We now offer drop-in hours for 1:1 meetings on an as-needed basis aimed at providing students with access to Capstone Scholars staff for the purpose of beyond-the-classroom advisement.

Program Rankings

List any nationally ranked or external recognition during the Academic Year. For each, provide the formal name of the program followed by the name of the organization that issued the ranking, the date of notification, effective date range, and any other relevant information.

Initiatives and Fees

Initiatives

Describe any new initiatives your unit will need for the coming year.

Fees

List any new or changed fees that your unit has implemented or had to take on in the last academic year.

Community Engagement

Community Perceptions

Describe how your unit assesses community perceptions of your engagement, and how the unit assesses the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, community and the institution. Provide specific findings.

Collaborations

Internal Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant internal collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are internal to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

- Office of Undergraduate Research - Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research Grant
- Study Abroad Office - Passport Travel Grant for Maymester/Summer study abroad programs
- USC Visitor Center - Special Capstone Scholars information session and housing tour
- USC Admissions - Virtual Admitted Student Days Informaiton Sessions
- Student Success Center - "Success Consultations" for Capstone Scholars between a 2.0-3.0 GPA
- University Housing - Capstone Scholars Learning Community
- University Housing - Fall Break Alternative Service Trip, Days of Service, Recharge Week
- First Year English Programs - Themed sections of English 101 and English 102 for Capstone Scholars
- University 101 - Capstone Scholars sections of University 101, Capstone Cup
- College of Engineering and Computing - Capstone Scholars section of ENCP 105
- Office of New Student Orientation - Capstone Scholars virtual info session
- Gamecock Pantry - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Green Quad Gardens - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Carolina Community Garden - Capstone Scholars Program office and Capstone Scholars Service Team
- SAVIP - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Leadership and Service Center - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Civic Engagement Series)
- Pillars for Carolina in the Leadership and Service Center - Capstone Scholars Pillars weekend experience

External Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant external collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are external to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

- International Service Learning (ISL) - study abroad provider for the Spring Break Service Learning Program to Costa Rica/Guatemala
- WorldStrides - Capstone Scholars Maymestser program to Portugal/England
- Under30Experiences - Capstone Scholars Spring Break program to Costa Rica
- Riverbanks Zoo - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Ronald McDonald House - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Savannah Salvation Army - CapstoneScholars Service Team (Day of Service)
- Habersham House - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Day of Service)
- Communities in School of the Midlands - CapstoneScholars Service Team
- PruittHealth - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Transitions - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Environmentally Endangered Lands Program - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Merritt Island Florida Alternative Break)
- Carolina Wildlife Center - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Pawmetto Lifeline - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Leeza's Care Connection - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Love For the Eldery - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Hand Middle School

Campus Climate and Inclusion

Campus Climate and Inclusion

Activities the unit conducted that were designed to improve Campus, Climate, and Inclusion.

A goal of Capstone Scholars program is create a more diverse and inclusive community.

Several initiatives were implemented to help us reach that goal:

Recruitment efforts: The Black Capstone Caucus partnered with Admission for a letter writing campaign spring 2021. Hand-written notes were sent students who had not yet deposited. We hope to continue that partnership.

Community Engagement:

- **Service Team Events:** The Capstone Scholars Service Team hosts events every week. These events are centered around acts of service, thoughtful reflection and discussion, and service-learning focusing on challenges facing our Columbia community and the individuals and groups most affected by those challenges.
- **Civic Engagement Certification Series:** The Service Team launched the Civic Engagement Certification Series as a means to educate students on the importance of service-learning and community engagement. Scholars make a difference in the Carolina community by moving through the Active Citizen Continuum in this five-part certification series covering various topics including, but not limited to: food insecurity, sustainability and environmentalism, systemic racism, education, literacy, voting, civil discourse, homelessness, and more.
- **Pride of Capstone:** Newly formed affinity group for LGBTQ+ Capstone Scholars and allies.

Campus Partnerships: We partnered with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs to provide Safe Zone training for our students.

A component that is required for Capstone Scholars to receive the Capstone Scholars Fellows distinction is to attend at least one beyond-the-classroom event or experience in which the student engages with diverse perspectives. This could include attendance at a diversity dialogue, Tunnel of Awareness, international week event, events through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, etc

Concluding Remarks

Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement

What is your unit struggling with? What plans do you have to overcome the weakness that you have faced in the next academic year.

Areas of weakness include data collection methods for our large student population and the ability to house a majority of our 1st year students in our community. This year, about 57% of our 1st year Capstone Scholars live in our community (Capstone and Columbia Hall) while the other 43% live either in other communities on campus or commuted from home. Almost our entire 2nd year cohort of students live off campus (aside from those who live in on-campus communities their 2nd year or are Resident Mentors). Just under 30% of our entire Capstone Scholars population lives in the Capstone Scholars community. Collecting data in order to get an accurate picture of the engagement of all 2,700 Capstone Scholars who live both on and off campus remains a challenge however, starting in Fall 2021, we are piloting a relationship with Student Life to utilize Garnet Gate for event promotion and event attendance tracking. We continue to work with Housing regarding event tracking methods, but are piloting Garnet Gate as a method to increase event awareness and improve event participation data collection.

Improved housing accommodations for our 1st year students in the Capstone Scholars community are needed to remain competitive with other communities on campus as well as other programs for high-ability students on other institutions

We also lost 80% of our FTE staff this past academic year and have rehired 3 of the 4 vacant positions as of October 2021. Providing competitive salaries and compensation has been challenging. Onboarding the new hires will allow us to expand our programming and outreach efforts.

Key Issues

Identify key issues or potential challenges your unit will encounter this coming year and the steps you plan on initiating.

Increasing enrollments are requiring our office to adjust how we conduct key initiatives including one-on-one faculty/staff-student appointments. We have begun to rely on our partnership with University 101 and our campus partners to overcome this challenge particularly in the Fall semester for our 1st year students and Spring semester for our 2nd year students, respectively.

Diversity among the Capstone Scholars continues to be a challenge. We will continue to work with Admissions to recruit a more diversity population and under represented minorities.

Quantitative Outcomes

Explain any surprises regarding data provided in the quantitative outcomes modules throughout this report.

Despite our student population growth, the academic performance for Capstone Scholars remains strong and on levels from previous years. With over 93% of Capstone Scholars at over a 3.0 cumulative GPA, scholarship retention remains high which is important for retention purposes. Retention to the Capstone Scholars Program from 1st to 2nd year remains above 90%

Concluding Remarks

Cool Stuff

Describe innovations, happy accidents, good news, etc. that occurred within your unit not noted elsewhere in your reporting.

Retention rates compared to the Honors College and general University population dating back to 2016:

- 2016 - 92% 2nd year retention rate, 82% year 3 return rate, 77% year 4 return rate, 73% graduation rate
- 2017 - 91% 2nd year retention rate, 85% year 3 return rate, 79% year 4 return rate
- 2018 - 91% 2nd year retention rate, 86% year 3 return rate
- 2019 - 94% 2nd year retention rate
- On average, retention rate is about 4% below the Honors College and 3% higher than the general university population
- Graduation rate for Capstone Scholars is at 73% which is 7% higher than the general university population and 9% below the Honors College

Spring 2021 University Awards Day:

- 20 Capstone Scholars won the President's Award (27% of all recipients)
- 45 Capstone Scholars won the Outstanding Senior Award (27% of all recipients)

2020-2021 National Fellowships and Scholar Programs:

- 31 applications were submitted by Capstone Scholars, with 14 winning applicants (just over 20% of all NFSP winners for 2020-2021)

55% of our freshman class have attended at least 1 Capstone Scholars event