**Capstone Programs Assessment Plan**

*Goal of Capstone Programs:*

Help the University of Utah fulfill its pledge to students to provide them with, among other things, deeply engaged learning experiences. This is done by developing and promoting capstone projects (see definition below) in collaboration with university and community partners.

*Description*:

Capstone courses and projects integrate coursework, knowledge, skills, and experiential learning for the purpose of enabling students to demonstrate their synthesis of knowledge in real-world applications.

*Program Objectives*

1. Provide students with or connect them to opportunities to apply their accumulated learning to a meaningful capstone project.
2. Provide students with the tools and opportunities to assess their capstone experiences in order to understand how they could improve upon their project.
3. Help students position themselves for emerging opportunities in their fields.

**Evidence to Inform the Program Objectives**

Objective 1 is accomplished by securing program funding from donors to support student capstone projects and working with departments at the University of Utah to develop new or promote already existing capstone courses, experiences, and projects. Examples of those can be found here: http://capstone.ugs.utah.edu/current-projects/index.php

Objective 2 is accomplished through projects funded by community donors. A required part of these projects is the development of a video summary of the work that was done, and reflection on what could have been done to improve it. See [ ] for videos.

Objective 3 is examined by following up with students after graduate to ask them how the capstone contributed to their job search, whether they are working in a field related to the capstone project, etc.

**Assessment Report**

A report summarizing the findings generated by the evidence listed above will be submitted each year to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies. This report will include a reflection on how well the objectives were met and what might be adjusted about the programs in order to get us closer to meeting our goal.