

For those that are wondering what the Capstone seminar is:

Structure of the Seminar

Each seminar lasts approximately eight hours. A maximum of 36 midshipmen attend, and they are divided randomly among six tables. Each table has a facilitator, and ideally, that facilitator stays throughout the day. There are four topic areas covered by presenters, along with a guest speaker.

Here is how the seminar typically works:

An informal buffet breakfast is provided before the seminar starts. This gives time for participants and table facilitators to "break the ice."

Officer Development personnel kick off the seminar.

A presenter delivers content on the first topic.

The midshipmen discuss that topic at their tables. If applicable, the table facilitator will have a midshipman summarize the table's discussion for everyone, so that the rest can hear and comment.

A presenter delivers content on the second topic.

Again, the midshipmen discuss that topic at their tables, with the facilitator encouraging and focusing discussion.

A guest speaker presents either a 45-minute lecture or, as is most common and successful, a question-and-answer discussion.

A buffet-style lunch is served to midshipmen and guests. This reinforces the instruction midshipmen have received from USNA about proper etiquette and manners, part of the commissioned officer's necessary tools.

After lunch, a presenter delivers content on the third topic.

The midshipmen discuss the topic at their tables, with the help of the table facilitator.

A presenter delivers content on the final topic.

The midshipmen discuss that topic at their tables, aided by their facilitator.

Officer Development personnel close the seminar.

Administrative Details

Location: The seminars take place in the Chesapeake/Severn Room complex in the basement of the 4th Wing of Bancroft Hall. The entrance is between Dahlgren Hall and Bancroft Hall on the ground floor in Kelly Court.

Schedule: All times listed below are approximate. A more complete schedule can be found at http://intranet.usna.edu/OfficerDevelopment/Capstone/capstone_index.htm.

Breakfast and Introduction

0715 Breakfast/Registration

0745 Kick-off

Morning Sessions

0800-0915 Last Call: An Interactive Multimedia Simulation

0925-1040 Junior Officer Leadership Challenges

Guest Speaker and Lunch

1050-1135 Guest Speaker Presentation

1145-1230 Lunch

Afternoon Sessions

1245-1400 Character Workshop

1410-1510 Justice and Mercy as a Military Leader or

Aviano Gondola Case Study

Wrap-up

1510-1530 Final Comments/Critiques

Dress: Midshipmen attend in civilian informal attire, which consists of a suit or jacket and tie for the men and a suit or blouse with dress slacks/skirt for the women. Facilitators are also encouraged to wear the same. The goal is to reinforce for midshipmen what is appropriate civilian informal attire and to remove any aspect of rank. The ideas presented should be taken at face value, not prejudiced by the rank of the person.

Tuesday, 09SEP

Thursday, 11SEP

Tuesday, 16SEP

Thursday, 18SEP

Wednesday, 01OCT

Friday, 03OCT

Wednesday, 08OCT

Friday, 10OCT

Wednesday, 15OCT

Friday, 17OCT

Tuesday, 21OCT

Thursday, 23OCT

Wednesday, 05NOV

Friday, 07NOV

Thursday, 20NOV