Completion of the Literature major requires a capstone. The Capstone requirement demonstrates the student’s ability to produce advanced work in the field.

Requirements: To participate in the Literature Capstone, students must have completed a minimum of 90 semester credit hours, including the lower division Literature courses.

Capstone: Students must successfully complete either a Capstone class, an independent project, or a senior honors thesis.

Capstone class option
The Capstone class provides majors a structure within which to reflect and comment on their work in the major. It includes four elements: a short essay of reflection upon courses taken and work done at the University and its role in shaping the student as a reader and writer, close readings of a literary text and readings in selected works of criticism, revision of a paper or creative project written for a previous class, and presentation of the revised paper to the class, including the process of revision.

Registration: To enroll in the Capstone, students will register in LIT 4390 during their enrollment period.

Independent project option
A student conducts independent study under the direction of a faculty member and a second reader. Possible projects include: student teaching, play or film direction, a scholarly paper, or a creative writing project. While the exact details of the project are worked out between the student and the faculty supervisor, the project exhibits independent literary research and argument. Projects should be documented (e.g. through lesson plans, production notes, or a set of poems), and will include a critical essay explaining the project’s context and important ideas. These explanatory essays are at least 4000 words long. Scholarly papers should also be at least 4000 words and should also explain their context and ideas. Each student is responsible for securing a supervisor and second reader for his or her project. The project supervisor should be a full-time member of the faculty who regularly teaches in the Literature and Language track. It is recommended that students begin planning for the project as early as possible and, ideally, meet with prospective faculty supervisor one or two semesters prior to undertaking the project.

Registration: Students will need to complete the Independent Study Application and form and obtain signatures of the supervising professor. Students will bring the form to the Academic Advising Suite (JO 4.508) and will be notified of their enrollment in LIT 4V71 for 3 semester credit hours via their UTD email.

Senior honors option
Because the requirements for a senior honors project overlap and exceed the requirements for the Capstone, students who complete the requirements for major honors in Literature will be exempt from the Capstone requirement. Major Honors students must follow all guidelines included on the Major Honors info sheet.

Registration: Students will need to complete the Application and Registration for Major Honors form and obtain signatures of the supervising professor. Students will bring the form to the Academic Advising Suite (JO 4.508) and will be notified of their enrollment in LIT 4V99 via their UTD email.