



GEMSTONE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Gemstone: Quality in Learning for a Collaborative Academic/Library Instruction Program

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UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

ABOUT GEMSTONE

The principal goals of the program were to a) encourage meaningful intellectual contact between students in widely varying majors, and b) to provide a thread that links students' entire undergraduate career.

--Dr. William Destler, President of the Rochester Institute of Technology, formerly Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering, Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of Maryland (1996)

- Students attend classes, form teams, and design and conduct a research project related to the interdependence of science and technology with society.
- Each team is assigned a faculty mentor and librarian.
- The program culminates in a presentation to leaders in the field in the form of a thesis.

LIBRARIAN INVOLVEMENT

- Librarians provide focused, quality service, integrate information literacy into curriculum and work with students through the life of their projects.
- Librarians establish relationships with the students; provide hands-on service and instruction; track new developments alongside the students; and see the outcomes of the students' growth as researchers.

GEMSTONE IN NUMBERS

- Librarian involvement in the program began with two librarians but grew to librarians serving on 20 teams in just five years
- 1996: Inauguration of Gemstone Program
- 2000-2008: 100 teams graduated
- Average size of teams: 7 students
- Number of librarians involved: 30-35



"I had used Research Port before but the librarian taught little tricks on how to make searching more effective and efficient..."
-Gemstone student, 2008

"Not only will Research Port be a major conduit of information for my research, but I have also informed my friends about it..."
-Gemstone student, 2008

"We found some great sources on our topic... and we are starting to realize that we need to make it more specific."
-Gemstone student, 2008

GEMSTONE CURRICULUM AND LIBRARIAN INVOLVEMENT

Academic Year	Course	Librarian's Role
Freshman		
Fall Semester	GEMS 100 (1 credit) - <i>Freshman Honors Colloquium: Introduction to Gemstone</i>	Small team of librarians provide library session and students complete project worksheet
Spring Semester	GEMS 102 (1 credit) – <i>Research Topic Exploration</i> GEMS 104 (3 credits) – <i>Topics in Science and Technology and Society I</i>	Librarians provide information on how to complete project sheet Librarian and archivist give in-class demo; Web page (tutorial); additional session at University Archives
Sophomore		
Fall Semester	GEMS 202 (2 credits) – <i>Team Dynamics and Research Methodology</i> GEMS 296 (1 credit) – <i>Team Project Seminar</i>	Librarian in-class demo; introduction to working with team librarian Teams begin to work with designated team librarian(s)
Spring Semester	GEMS 297 (2 credits) – <i>Team Project Seminar II</i>	Librarian provides reference support on as-needed basis
Junior		
Fall Semester	GEMS 396 (2 credits) – <i>Team Project Seminar III</i>	Librarian provides reference support on as-needed basis; review draft thesis; attend and/or serve as moderator at Junior Colloquia
Spring Semester	GEMS 397 (2 credits) – <i>Team Project Seminar IV</i>	
Senior		
Fall Semester	GEMS 496 (2 credits) – <i>Project Writing Seminar</i>	Librarian provides reference support; review drafts of thesis; attend Presentation Rehearsal and provide feedback to team; attend Team Thesis Conference; attend Gemstone Citation Ceremony
Spring Semester	GEMS 497 (2 credits) – <i>Team Thesis Defense Seminar</i>	