

General Requirements of the Capstone Project

The Literacy Capstone project is a requirement for graduation in the CAS, Literacy Program. The Capstone is an opportunity for students to work on a literacy project that is of particular interest to them. *The goal is for students to apply the skills and competencies they have acquired to a literacy problem in a professional setting.*

Completion of the Capstone Project requires both written and oral components. The project is done under the direction of a faculty member. All students must complete the Literacy Capstone Information Form to tell us how you will complete the written and oral requirement.

In order to satisfy the written component, a student must write a paper. While there are no formal guidelines on its length, it should follow the guidelines of the American Psychological Association, Publication Manual, 5th Edition (2001). A proposal for the Literacy Capstone project should be submitted to your Faculty Capstone Supervisor before beginning your project.

The oral component is satisfied by presenting your project either at the Literacy Symposium that is held in May, a professional meeting, seminar or alternative venue approved by your Faculty Capstone Supervisor. Students are required to give a 10-minute oral presentation summarizing their capstone project that could include visuals such as a PowerPoint presentation.

The Capstone is typically done during the last two semesters before graduation under the direction of your Faculty Capstone Supervisor. The Capstone supervisor will typically be the student's advisor, but it need not be. Students can identify another faculty member to supervise the capstone, if it is more appropriate.

Possible Capstone Projects

Grant Proposal or Research Plan

The capstone project could simulate a grant or research proposal. The project would include a clear statement of the research question, the specific aims of the proposal, review of literature, study design, methods of analysis, implications and significance of the work. The research question would be one that is encountered in professional work such as the evaluation of a literacy intervention.

Research

The capstone project would involve the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data to address a literacy issue. The project would include sections on the research question, study design, data collection procedures, data analysis, interpretation, and significance of findings. Please note that the appropriate approval will need to be obtained for such a project.

Literacy Initiative

The capstone project would involve the development of a plan to implement a school-wide literacy initiative. The initiative will include critical issues such as management, fiscal, ethical and logistical aspects

Analysis of a Literacy Problem

The capstone project would be an in-depth analysis of important issues in literacy instruction. The project will include sections that clearly describe the problem, assess the problem and its magnitude, evaluate its causes and determinants, and discuss prevention and intervention strategies, and implementation and evaluation.

Curriculum Manual/Instructional Materials.

These include audiovisual, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online course, videodisks, imovie, or weblog. A weblog is a self-published, regularly updated comprehensive list of links and commentary to interesting material on the www.