Steps to Finding a Capstone Project

Nancy Gershenfeld & Hazel Taylor

Capstone Instructors
What is Masters Capstone?

• Degree Requirement
• Student-Directed Projects

The Capstone experience involves identifying an information problem in a real-world setting and developing the means to address it. Capstone projects can be research-oriented or design-oriented. Solutions are typically interactive, meaning the end product is something that can be implemented and used.
Which Type of Capstone?

**Design-based**
Application of knowledge and skills to solving an information problem

OR

**Research-based**
Exploration of a research question, developed either by you or someone else
Who Can Be a Sponsor?

Outside parties
• Companies
• Libraries
• Non-profit organizations
• Internship sites
• Place of work

iSchool faculty or staff
How Big a Project?

The emphasis is not on the size of the project, but...

- The extent to which the project is student-directed
- The feasibility of completing the deliverables in the time-frame allowed
What Kind of Deliverables?

• Build and launch into production
• Design and prototype
• Research, analyze and recommend
• Develop processes and procedures
• Conduct research and draft results
• Plan and produce an event or an exhibit
Is it an Entire Project from Start to Finish?

Consider defining one discrete part of a larger project

- Perform grant research and write proposal
- Prototype application
- Build database with sample data and develop procedures for production
Research and Human Subjects Approval

- Review the handout
- Meet with Cortney Leach, Research Development Manager
- Submit application in a timely manner as approval may take up to 8 weeks
Find a Project

iCareers  [http://icareers.ischool.uw.edu/](http://icareers.ischool.uw.edu/)

- Search jobs with position type “Experiential Learning” or “Volunteer Opportunity”, but not exclusively

Contact Organizations

- Make an offer!

iSchool Faculty and Staff

- Engage in conversations

Current Organizations

- Opportunities at work or current placements
Examples?

Capstone Archive
• http://ischool.uw.edu/current/capstone-archives

Program-specific examples
• MSIM
  https://ischool.uw.edu/current/msim/capstone/details
• MLIS https://ischool.uw.edu/current/mlis/final-project/examples
Find a Team

- Consider a joint MSIM/MLIS team
- Capstone events by various student organizations
- Capstone Speed Dating event Tuesday, November 5th in the HUB
- Get the word out to each other – use your cohort listservs
What About the Class?

Two-quarter sequence
• INFX 595 (Winter) 2 credits
  – Online course
  – Project Planning
• INFX 596 (Spring) 3 credits
  – Hybrid course
  – Project implementation
  – Capstone Event practice
Capstone Event

• Thursday, June 5\textsuperscript{th} 2014
• Joint event with Informatics Capstone projects
• Poster presentations, in person or virtual
Capstone Planning

• Find a Project and Sponsor before January 6
• Form a Capstone team of up to 4 members
• Develop a basic description of the project in preparation for class
More Information

• MSIM
  https://ischool.uw.edu/current/msim/capstone/faq

• MLIS
  https://ischool.uw.edu/current/mlis/final-project/faq
Questions?

Academic Advisors
- MSIM: Jason Boyd jboyd18@uw.edu
- MLIS: Marie Potter mardup@uw.edu

Instructors
- Nancy Gershenfeld ngersh@uw.edu
- Hazel Taylor hztaylor@uw.edu