Steps to Finding a Capstone Project

Nancy Gershenfeld & Hazel Taylor

Capstone Instructors

Information School
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

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 in 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/

- 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 5th 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