

Hints for Completing a Successful Culminating Research Project

- Choose the topic of your capstone wisely. Pick something you really want to know more about.
- Choose a method you have used before. This is **not** the time try new methods. It is the time to show what you have learned.
- Choose a capstone advisor with whom you would like to work. Your capstone advisor does not have to be your course instructor, but the advisor should know the topic area.
- As each faculty member will not take on more than five capstones in any given semester be flexible and have a back-up choice in mind.
- Complete the Capstone Research Project Agreement Form on time: Otherwise department faculty will assume you are not planning on graduating. Faculty will **not** be accepting capstone advisees in the middle of the semester.
- Complete your Capstone Research Proposal on time or it will lower your grade. Complete your capstone project on time so your grade will not be lowered. Capstones are due the last week of class.
- Make sure to have a bound, clean copy of your capstone to present to the department.
- Spend some quality time preparing your poster presentation.

Tips for Poster Presentations

Developing Your Poster

During the poster session, many people will stop by—at least communication faculty and other students. Some will just glance at your poster; others will want to talk with you.

Poster presentation recommendations:

1. Construct the 3 panel poster to include the title, the author(s), affiliation(s), and a description of the research, highlighting the major elements (research questions, results, and implications that can be drawn from the study).
2. Minimize detail and try to use simple, jargon-free statements.
3. Remember that pictures, tables, and figures are amenable to poster display
4. If you can, use color in your visuals.
5. Make sure your lettering is neatly done and is large enough to be read from a distance, i.e., do not simply pin up a set of typed pages--reserve these for your handout.
6. Consider using a flow chart or some other method of providing the viewer with a guide to inspecting your display.
7. Don't overwhelm the viewer with excessive amounts of information; rather, construct a poster display that enhances conversation.