Capstone Project Proposal Guide
Communication Department

Your proposal must articulate an original research project that is of a length and scope that is possible to complete in a single semester. Please explain in straightforward language: what you plan to study, your approach to research, and what form your final project will take. Respond to each item below in a paragraph or two. The capstone course is mandatory for all graduating Communication majors.

Proposal Sections:

I. Topic.

What is your research question or hypothesis?

II. Communicative significance.

What contribution does your project make to the field of communication?

III. Social significance.

How will your project benefit society? Will it engage with issues of social justice?

IV. Method of inquiry.

How will you carry out your research? Will it be Qualitative (ethnographic, cultural, sociological), Quantitative (survey, experimental), or Textual Analysis (literary, historical, visual, rhetorical). Or will it be a Creative Production (video, design, or other media-based project)?

V. Data collection/organization.

What procedures will you use to collect and organize your data or research material?

Note: If you plan to do research that includes "human subjects," you must get Institutional Review Board (IRB) clearance prior to the first meeting of your Capstone class. No exceptions.

VI. Presentational format.

How will you present your project? Will it be a Journal Article, Long Essay, Video or Audio Documentary, Rhetorical/Persuasive Campaign, a Screenplay, or some other artifact of research?

VII. Theoretical Framework.

What theories and ideas will help you in answering your research question or exploring your hypothesis?

VIII. "Capstone," as the culmination of your work in the Communication Department.

How does your prior coursework inform your project? Discuss Communication Theory, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods, and your upper division electives as preparation for your research and writing.