**Capstone FAQ’s**

1. **What is the difference between a Case Study and a Research Project?**

Case studies are based on actual initiatives or programs within a specific company that the student either participated in as an employee of the company or has unique access to company employees. A case study may study the company program from several perspectives and ultimately recommend process improvements for subsequent programs.

Research studies are an academic exploration of a particular subject. Research Projects involve secondary and often primary research and position the student to draw their own set of conclusions on their chosen topic.

 Capstone students with professional work experience may choose a case study but also have the option of selecting a research project. Students with little or no professional experience in their field of study must choose the research project option.

1. **How do I select the topic for my case study or research paper?**

Case studies and research projects are chosen by the Capstone student, with advice and final approval by your Capstone advisor.

First, the topic must be related to your field of study. Second, you should consider how the topic may be related to your career objectives. For example, an IT major interested in the Health Care Industry may choose to research the evolution of Artificial Intelligence in medical diagnosis. MSC majors interested in Crisis Communication may choose to research best practices in how large companies have managed a recent crisis. Aligning your topic to your career objectives gives you an opportunity to discuss your project as you interview for a related job.

1. **How long should my case study or research paper be?**

There is no set limit or maximum number of pages but it’s important to remember this is a semester long project and your paper must represent an in-depth study of a particular topic. Well researched and papers typically have a minimum of 30 to 35 pages of well written content. Included in your final capstone deliverable should be your project charter, a literature review if applicable, status reports and your citations/bibliography.

1. **Do I need to complete every section of the final deliverable?**

The standard Capstone template is designed to address all of the requirements of a client-based Capstone project and you should expect to complete every section. Some sections may not apply to Case Studies and Research Projects and your Capstone advisor will provide direction on which sections apply.

1. **Is a literature review required for a case study?**

No, but all sources must still be cited in the final report.