

Capstone Project (Description from Graduate Handbook)

Mentor: The AuD Capstone Mentor must be SLHS faculty member with a graduate faculty appointment. A co-mentor from the field may be added. In selecting a capstone mentor, the AuD student should talk with faculty members who share an area of interest, learning about his or her research interests and the types of projects conducted in his or her lab or clinical setting. A student should be specific about clinical research interests to determine whether the potential research mentor is interested in mentoring a project in his or her area. All capstone mentorship relationships are by mutual agreement of the faculty member and the student. All capstone proposals and outcomes will be approved by the AuD committee

Capstone Project

Step 1: Preparation of Capstone Project proposal:

After meeting with an SLHS faculty member who agrees to mentor the student in the capstone, each student will prepare a brief proposal (no more than 5 pages) for their project that includes a rationale and statement of purpose (proposal outline is available on the SLHS website). The capstone may be a research-based investigation, an evidence-based position paper, a clinical protocol based on peer-reviewed literature, or another format approved by the AuD committee.

The scope of the capstone project will be clearly stated, along with a description of the end product of the capstone. Timelines should also be included as the capstone is a project that should be reasonably completed in one semester. Students who do not complete the capstone before the 4th year externship will need approval from the AuD committee to continue with the externship placement despite the academic portion of the degree not being fulfilled. The capstone proposal will be submitted to and approved by the capstone advisor and the AuD committee at least two months before the start of the 4th year externship.

Step 2: Focused independent study for the Capstone Project:

Students will carry out a focused independent study based on their Capstone Project proposal, which will include regular mentoring from their capstone advisor. The outcome of this portion of the study will be a capstone portfolio and documentation of all meetings with the capstone advisor. It is not expected that the capstone project result in a paper of publication quality, however students are encouraged to share their capstone project with the greater audiology community at a local or state forum. Examples of possible portfolios include an annotation of peer-reviewed literature, a project report, a laboratory data book for a research investigation, a clinical protocol or description for dissemination to the public of a clinical service, or another appropriate format given the nature of the project.

Step 3: Final presentation of the Capstone Project:

The final product will also be presented to the AuD committee. The final product could take the form of a research poster presentation, a grant proposal, oral presentation, a paper or a publication. Students will prepare and present a final product to their advisor, for the assignment of the final grade.

AUD Capstone Project Proposal

This proposal must be submitted by October 15th of the 3rd year. It is the student’s responsibility to give signed electronic copies of this proposal to: a) faculty advisor b) Graduate Program Manager (for student’s graduate file) and c) AUD Committee Chair. Students and advisors are encouraged to use DocuSign to process the signatures.

Student Name: _____

SLHS faculty member advisor: _____

Co-advisor: _____

Title of Project: _____

Date submitted to Advisor: _____

Signature of approval by Advisor: _____

Date submitted to AUD committee: _____

Signature of approval of AUD committee chair: _____

Semester in which you are enrolling for the capstone project: _____

Part A: Please describe the format of your capstone (e.g., research-based investigation, evidence-based position paper, a clinical protocol based on peer-reviewed literature, another format).

Part B: Please describe the rationale and statement of purpose of your project. Include references to the literature to support your rationale.

Part C: Does your project involve human subjects? Yes_____ No_____

If yes, please include a plan for how you will be obtaining IRB approval for your project. This plan might a description/number of a protocol that is already approved by your advisor, or a working draft of the human subjects' protocol you intend to submit to IRB.

Part D: Please describe the end product of your capstone. Examples of outcomes include a poster that is presented at a conference, a written paper, a manuscript that may be submitted for publication.

Part E: The capstone is an academic course. If you are working in a lab or receiving funding for research that relates to your research, please describe here how you will distinguish between your paid work and the coursework for your capstone.

Part E: Please provide a proposed timeline for your capstone project. Remember that the capstone is intended as a one-semester 3-credit hour experience.

| Benchmark | Date Submitted/Completed | Date Approved by AUD committee |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Proposal | | |
| Fill in specific steps involved in your project. E.g., literature review, submission of IRB protocol, testing subjects, data analysis etc. | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Final Product | | |

Part F: Please provide a reference list for peer-reviewed literature that you intend to include in your capstone project independent study. (This list does not need to be exhaustive or all-inclusive but should include key papers that guide and support your rationale).