

Curriculum and Instruction Cohort 1

Capstone Summary

The Lincoln and Omaha face-to-face cohorts which began the Curriculum and Instruction program in the Fall 2010 were the first group to complete the program during the summer of 2012. Submission of a capstone project is the culminating experience for program completion.

The capstone experience is designed to bring reflection and focus to the whole of the curriculum and instruction program experience. It encourages students to integrate facets of their own personal and professional goals with important concepts of theory and best practice from related program coursework.

Students were given four project options (a direct application of Standards 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) to showcase their professional growth including:

1. Curriculum Research Project
2. Creation of a Professional Blog or Wiki to share resources and best practice advice with others
3. 90-Minute Conference/Workshop Presentation Proposal to be presented at a teacher in-service or professional local/state or national conference
4. Practicum Proposal outlining how they would complete their 100 practicum hours under a mentor, and how the experience will directly correlate with the licensure requirements

As the program director and instructor for this course, I anticipated there would be a somewhat even split between the four options. I was surprised at the actual choices. Of the 22 students, 2 chose the blog/wiki option, 3 chose to complete their practicum proposal, 1 chose the research project, and 16 students chose the 90-minute workshop.

For this summary, the students who completed the 90-minute workshop were tracked. The quality of professional growth demonstrated utilizing theory and best practice from their course work, the depth of practical information and resources included in the proposals, and the anticipated audiences that will be impacted by the presentations were impressive. More than half of the workshops were presented for staff at the in-service within their schools and/or districts to

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begin the 2012-2013 school year, 2 will be presented at state-wide professional affiliation conferences in the future, and one will be presented at a national conference in November.

All students successfully completed the capstone requirement, and they left no doubt that they grew professionally and have the tools to continue growing and sharing in their classroom, departments, schools and district.

Attached are the 90-minute project instructions and requirements, and the associated rubric the project was graded on. All students completing this project and the practicum proposal received the full 100 points.

The same is not true of the other two options. The sole research project received a 70/100, and the blogs/wiki received an 80 and 85 respectively out of 100 points. Clearly, those who chose these two options did not put in nearly as much work or effort to complete the capstone, although they did demonstrate growth in the application of the INTASC Standards.

These options will be available to subsequent cohorts for their capstone, however, modifications will be made for the blog/wiki project to include a greater depth of activity and research required, and the curriculum research project will be incorporated into EDUC 551 Curriculum Design and Evaluation.

Project Choice	Blog/Wiki	Practicum Proposal	Workshop	Research
N=	2	3	16	1
Final Scores Out of 100	80 and 85	All were 100	All were 100	70