Course Number and Title:

EDUC 540
Curriculum and Instruction Program Capstone

(May be cross listed with ED 599 Independent Study/Project Completion).

Academic Credit:

3 graduate credits

Course Rationale:

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 coursework. The capstone provides an ideal setting for conducting authentic assessments of what students know and are able to do.

Course Description:

The capstone course is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have achieved the goals for learning established in their professional development plan. This project should take into consideration all of the courses leading to this degree and focus on a student's personal interest area(s) as they relate to improvement in two of the INTASC teaching standards.

Place of Course in the Curriculum:

This is the final course in a sequence of 12 courses, and is required of all students seeking an Education Masters degree with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The goals of this course are:

1. Draw connections between professional development plan and theory and best practice

2. Demonstrate mastery of content material within student's professional development plan

3. Utilize advanced skills (critical thinking, problem solving, quantitative and qualitative reasoning)

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Produce a quality artifact demonstrating increased knowledge, skills and competency in a minimum of two INTSAC standards identified in the student's professional

development plan for inclusion in their portfolio.

Course Content:

Completion of program capstone paper or project following ED 595 Educational Research Design

Methodology:

Methods of instruction that work well for this course include, but are not limited to:

    A. Lectures
    B. Readings
    C. Written Assignments
    D. Videos
    E. Case Studies
    F. Journaling

Student Roles:

    1. Explore interests to choose a problem, project or topic to complete a capstone paper
    2. Develop a proposal
    3. Conduct an expanded literature review
    4. Conduct a comprehensive study to address the problem or topic chosen
    5. Include findings and solutions in final written paper (APA style writing required)

Assessment:

Enter the method category and percentage assigned to each method. The total should equal 100%. Specify various evaluation tools which work best for the course: papers, reports, individual or group projects, discussion, participation, tests etc.

Example:

Proposal	20%
Literature Review	10%
Study Methodology	10%
APA Style Writing and Mechanics	40%
Final Paper Presentation	20%
	100%

Development of a grading rubric in each category is strongly recommended for objective rather than subjective evaluation.

Bibliography:

Dates of Initial Approval and Revision:

Initial Approval:

Revised: June 16, 2010

Recommended Text:

Creswell, J. (2008). *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research* (3rd ed). New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
ISBN: 0136135501

Website for power points and other resources for the educational research text:
http://www.prenhall.com/creswell

Websites and Resource Materials

APA Style Wizard
The APA Wizard is designed to help you create an APA (6th ed.) citation. It will take you through the steps for the most common types of cited works providing you with assistance on how to input specific information. As long as you enter the information correctly, the Wizard will result in a correct APA citation.

The Basics of APA Style
This tutorial is designed for those who have no previous knowledge of APA Style. It shows users how to structure and format their work, recommends ways to reduce bias in language, identifies how to avoid charges of plagiarism, shows how to cite references in text, and provides selected reference examples.