

Capstone Assignment

The PSY 3000 capstone project is to be completed so that the capstone project meets Cleary's writing-intensive and research requirements.

Capstone project requirements, expectations, and evaluation criteria are described herein. The capstone project must be clearly separated from other graded course assignments.

Capstone projects demonstrate the overall quality of a student's cumulative education while highlighting the depth of specific skills that define basic psychology studies.

All capstone projects must be accompanied by argument-driven documentation that fulfills writing-intensive requirements: Papers are written in stages, revision is built into their development process, as detailed in the module weeks, and at least 20% of the capstone grade is based on the quality of the student's writing.

Research-based capstone projects emerge from a semester-long process of scholarly inquiry. They must have a clearly identified research question, demonstrate appropriate application of relevant theoretical and/or methodological concepts, and avoid content errors. Research-based capstones culminate in an argument-driven paper that is oriented to an academic audience or lay audience interested in psychology. It consists of at least 2,500 to 3,000 words, engages at least 10 scholarly sources with at least seven of them peer-reviewed, and uses the APA citation guide.

This paper will be a research study proposal. Students will determine an overall topic, develop a research question to explore, create a review of literature, and develop an original research study (but not conduct it, this is a proposal only).

This research study proposal will consist of the following "chapters." All page counts are absolute minimums. If the chapter does not reach the page count, that chapter has not met the minimum requirements and will not count in the overall grade.

1. Introduction of topic, research question, and an impact statement on what the student believes this study will contribute to society in a positive manner. (1 page)
2. Literature review. In this chapter, students will discuss the relevant peer-reviewed and scholarly articles they have located about the topic and how the research and information within those articles determined the "research gap" and how the research question will help to fill that gap. (2 pages)
3. Methodology. In this chapter, students will discuss the methodology chosen, why the methodology was chosen, and how it will be applied. This will include participant selection, how the study will be conducted, and what will be used to conduct the study. If a survey is being used, for example, that survey will need to be included. (2 pages)

4. Conclusions. This chapter will discuss how the data will be analyzed and communicated. This chapter also hypothesizes what the data will reveal and how it could be applied in the real world to affect change. (1 page)

The timeline for completion is as follows:

- Week 1: Topic selection
- Week 2: Research question and initial references
- Week 3: Methodology and final references
- Week 4: Outline of research study proposal
- Week 5: Rough draft of research study proposal
- Week 6: Final project due

This proposal will be in APA 7 format, including the title page and a references page.