Rubric for Assessing Capstone Proposals

CHICAGO STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Core Concepts	Level 1 (Inadequate)	Level 2 (Basic)	Level 3 (Operational)	Level 4 (Exemplary)
Chicago-focused: Demonstrates a meaningful connection to a Chicago community, topic, institution, individual, or issue	The proposed capstone project does not clearly connect to Chicago, and/or does so without clear grounding in either academic research or community-based knowledge.	The proposed capstone project is Chicago-focused, and makes a simple case for its relevance grounded in either academic research or community-based knowledge/partner input.	The proposed capstone project fulfills all basic requirements, grounding its relevance to Chicago in both academic research AND community-based knowledge/partner input.	The proposed capstone project demonstrates a sophisticated and well-grounded understanding of its theme's relevance to Chicago, drawing upon multiple academic and community-based sources of knowledge.
Encounter-based: Evidences authentic connection(s) within Chicago's diverse communities	The proposed capstone project does not arise from any significant or meaningful relationships with a Chicago community, institution, or individual.	The proposed capstone project is reflective of at least one authentic relationship with a Chicago community, institution, or individual.	The proposed capstone project fulfills all basic requirements, evincing meaningful boundary-crossing and empathic connection(s) across one or more lines of difference.	The proposed capstone project arises from multiple relationships established across lines of difference, characterized by mutual respect and empathic connection.
Collaborative: Builds upon existing assets and networks	The proposed capstone project does not take into account existing assets or resources, including those present at the University and in the community.	The proposed capstone project takes into account and builds upon at least one significant asset or resource, whether in the University or in the community.	The proposed capstone project fulfills all basic requirements, building upon multiple University and community assets and resources to achieve its aims.	The proposed capstone project creatively integrates multiple University and community assets and resources so as to achieve a diverse range of positive aims.
Reciprocal: Aims at relevant and meaningful impacts for its Chicago community partners	The proposed capstone project does not clearly articulate impacts in Chicago, and/or does so without grounding the relevance of its impacts.	The proposed capstone project articulates clear impacts for Chicago, and grounds the relevance of those impacts with some consideration of partner input.	The proposed capstone project fulfills all basic requirements, and implements multiple elements of a community-based participatory research design to attain its impacts.	The proposed capstone project implements a full community-based participatory research design to ensure the direct relevance of its processes and outcomes to community-based partners.

Integrative: Integrates academic knowledge and community-based experiences	The proposed capstone project deals with content drawn exclusively from academic classes, or exclusively from community-based experiences, without clearly integrating the two.	The proposed project integrates knowledge from academic classes and community-based experiences. The connection between the two may be somewhat superficially addressed, and/or biased toward one source over the other.	The proposed capstone project integrates both academic knowledge and community-based experiences, recognizing multiple connections between the two without prejudice to either.	The proposed capstone project integrates academic knowledge and community-based experiences, articulates multiple important links between the two, and shows potential to demonstrate significantly enriched understanding by virtue of this integration.
Responsible: Presents its findings to relevant publics in the community, including those who informed it	The capstone project proposal offers an inadequate presentation plan, and/or omits one or more relevant publics from the sharing of the project's findings/results.	The capstone project proposal offers an adequate (if undetailed) presentation plan, and considers all relevant publics with whom the project's findings/results should be shared.	The capstone project proposal offers a detailed presentation plan that takes into account the priorities and interests of all relevant publics in communicating the project's findings and results.	The capstone project proposal offers a plan that details creative strategies for communicating the project's findings and results to all relevant publics, with a clear eye toward replication and/or furtherance of impact(s).
Sustainable: Establishes or extends a legacy with University and/or external partners	The proposed capstone project's implementation would result in a short-term or standalone impact.	The proposed capstone project's implementation would help to further establish or extend at least one existing project, either at the University or in the community.	The proposed capstone project's implementation would help to further establish or extend at least one existing project, while creating the conditions of possibility for further expansions of that project.	The proposed capstone project's implementation would further establish or extend multiple projects/initiatives so as to make possible a lasting legacy of positive changes for the target issue/area.