



Quick Guide for Prospective Capstone Project Field Supervisors

Thanks for your interest in partnering with the **University of Texas at Austin School of Information** on potential student capstone projects. This guide is intended as a quick reference that covers the important details of the program. You can also review the [Capstone Supervisor's Handbook](#) (downloadable here) for more information, along with sample project forms and agreements.

Working with UT-Austin iSchool students continues a more than 75 year tradition of academic and professional excellence. We're excited for you to be a part of the next 75 years as we prepare exceptional talent from around the world in the critical fields that drive society and industry forward.

MSIS (Graduate students)

Data Science **Analytics**
UX Design **UX Research**
Accessibility **UI Development**
AI and Machine Learning
Preservation **Library Science**
Archives **Records Management**

Informatics (Undergrad students)

Human-Centered Data Science
User Experience (UX) Design
Digital Accessibility
Cultural Heritage Informatics
Health Informatics
AI and Machine Learning

What is a Capstone project, and how is it different from an Internship?

Capstones are final professional experience projects that students complete in order to graduate. They occur during the student's final semester and last approximately 10 - 12 weeks. Graduate students complete a 125-hour project; Undergraduates commit 60 hours to their project.

- a. **Capstones are similar to internships, but shorter and with a specific deliverable:**
 - i. The capstone time commitment is far less. Graduate students are expected to complete 125 hours of work over the course of one semester. Undergrads commit 60 hours over one semester.
 - ii. Work is focused on a single overall project, which may be broken up into multiple deliverables over a 10 -12 week time frame. (this takes up one full semester).
 - iii. While most students are seeking capstones in the Spring to align with their expected graduation, we also offer capstones in Summer and Fall.
 - iv. Paying the student is currently optional. They will receive course credit and complete their graduation requirements. We're happy to see students earn income for their time, and payments can be set by the sponsoring organization. There is no fee to the University.

What are the best types of Capstone projects for students and sponsors?

- a. The best projects offer students an opportunity to apply their skills and learnings in a real-world environment. Student backgrounds in the UT iSchool cover User Experience (UX Design and Research), Accessibility, AI, Data Science, Analytics, Development, Library Science, Archives, Preservation, and Records Management.
- b. There are dozens of project types in each domain that are suitable, ranging from Analytics projects with Data Scientists to UX Research studies and UX/UI Design. There are several students focused on Archiving and Library Science, too. Our Spring 2024 Capstone Projects can be viewed here: <https://ischool.utexas.edu/programs/msis/capstone/capstone-archive>



Students from the UT School of Information MSIS program have backgrounds in Data Science, Machine Learning, Front-end Development, AI, UX Design and Research, Accessibility, Library Science, Archives, Records Management, and Preservation.

Undergraduate Informatics disciplines include UX Design, Research, and Accessibility, AI, Human-Centered Data Science, plus Health, Cultural Heritage, and Social Justice Informatics.

What is the value proposition to my organization?

- a. In addition to supporting the development of the next generation of talent in the workforce, sponsoring Capstone projects offers an opportunity to complete valuable work. The students are ready to show their skills, and we often hear from our current partner organizations that they love being able to get at projects that were not otherwise resourced, or reprioritized.
- b. You can evaluate the student as a potential fit in your organization with minimal expense or commitment. After 60-125 hours and approximately 10-12 weeks, you'll be able to understand more about each student than a job interview can reveal. If you're looking to bring on new interns or junior-level employees, the Capstone can be a great step for both parties.
- c. You open up a direct line to new talent across critical functions. You'll also have relationships with our Careers, Capstone, and Business Development directors. We can help you connect with our exceptional talent before they ever hit the job market. You can also share the critical needs of your teams, to help ensure you get the best and most qualified candidates.

Do you have an idea for a project, or would you like to connect with the iSchool to discuss capstone projects for your team?

[Capstone Idea Submission Form](#) - use this to submit an idea for a Capstone project!

There is no commitment to submit an idea. We will use this information to pair with student capstone interest areas. We're happy to make student introductions, too!

You can also setup a chat with our Capstone Director, Dr. John Neumann, anytime by emailing: john.neumann@austin.utexas.edu.