ED 789 Capstone Syllabus

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
College of Business
University of Southern Mississippi

Spring/Summer 2016

CAPSTONE GUIDE

The capstone course in creative problem solving is designed to challenge and synthesize the student’s proficiency in economic development practice. Research problems are completed and defended based on the student’s program of study and specializations. In this class the student will gain experience in economic development consulting.

The student working in conjunction with the instructor will identify an appropriate and manageable research project. The project needs to meet three criteria:

1. An actual economic development research need
2. An actual practitioner “client” for the project
3. The deliverable must have the student’s name on it.

Economic development (ED) is the management of public-private investment collaborations to facilitate sustainable growth in the economy as typically measured by job creation, increased citizen wealth, a greater tax base, and improved quality-of-life. The three legs of ED are business attraction, business retention & expansion, and entrepreneurship development that start from a base of community development.

Initiation of the Project

Prior to the beginning of the capstone experience, students will discuss with the Coordinator of the Master of Science in Economic Development program and/or major professor to initiate the development of the proposed project. The discussion will consist of the following:

- Identification of potential consulting experience
- Organization of literature/theory to support such an initiative
- Specific measurable objectives for the project
- Development of a timetable for submission of the project

Conducting the Project

The student will follow all university policies for conducting outreach projects including IRB approval if required, non-disclose if required by the client, and all the terms of any project memorandum of understanding.

ADA Compliance: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office
for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies at The University of Southern Mississippi Office of Disability Accommodations, 730 East Beach Blvd., Long Beach, MS, 39560, Phone: (228) 214-3232 or (601) 266-5024, Fax: (601) 266-6035. Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.

**Evaluation:** Grade of C+ through F: A substantial portion of the required work has been deficient or incomplete. This may include missing class time beyond the norm presented by the syllabus or work not completed at a minimum graduate level.

Grade of B-(82-80): Some important parts of the required work are below the minimally acceptable level for the course. This may include work that is submitted late, incomplete or flawed written assignments or research presentations, or work that fails to meet the course requirements in some other way.

Grade of B (85-83): All the requirements and expectations for the grade level have been completed including the quality of writing, and research, as well as specific tasks or products required for receiving credit.

Grade of B+ (89-86): All basic requirements of the course have been met at the graduate level, and, in addition, some element or part of the work has exceeded these basic expectations. These elements might include superior conceptual insights, research beyond expectations or exceptionally skilled written or oral assignments. The key word for this grade is "insight."

Grade of A- (92-90): The work surpasses expectations for the course and gives evidence of a mastery of the subject matter. These elements might include impressive conceptual insights, research beyond expectations or exceptionally skilled written or oral presentations. The key word for this grade is "mastery."

Grade of A (100 to 93): Throughout the course, the student has performed well above expectations and, at times, has achieved excellence. Evidence of performance at this high level may include certain elegance in the final essays or presentations, creativity in one's approach.