

# Professional Projects

The six credit professional project is designed for students to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired throughout the degree program. Students must be in their final year of course work to enroll in the first semester of project work. It is an opportunity for the student to apply discipline specific theory and principle to a project that is usually conducted within a work setting. It is also a major way to demonstrate that the student has achieved the program's learning outcomes. The professional project will culminate with a scholarly paper that describes the project and its outcomes in terms of theory and concepts from the discipline. If a specialization has been chosen by the student, it is expected that the student *integrate* the specialization and core discipline into the project work. Generally, students who are completing project work will enroll in **three** credits of project work for **two** consecutive semesters.

As one of the project choices, a student may wish to apply to Future Milwaukee and use that experience to complete the professional project work. For a more thorough description of this option, please refer to the following page in this handbook or visit the Future Milwaukee website at <http://www.marquette.edu/cps/futuremilwaukee/index.shtml>.

As another option, a student may choose to submit an article for publication to a scholarly journal in place of writing a scholarly paper. A copy of this article must be submitted to the college office. As deemed by the student's faculty advisor, the article must meet the journal guidelines prior to submission. The article does not need to be accepted for publication, though that would be the goal. Co-authorship with the faculty facilitator may be acceptable when the facilitator has actually participated in the research. However, the student should be the principal author.

The student's project advisor and the associate dean for graduate programs must approve the capstone project outline as does the graduate school. There are guidelines for this process on the provost website. Information regarding the capstone project will be given to the students when they enroll in the program and when they enroll in the required two Professional Project courses. In most cases students are expected to finish the capstone within one year of completing their course-work.

If the student is doing human subjects research, the IRB Protocol Summary Form must be completed and submitted to the Office of Research Compliance (ORC) for approval before the research may begin. The student must also complete the IRB tutorial located on the ORC website. To help students prepare for this work, PUBS 6225/LEDR 6025 requires all students to complete the ORC tutorial and to complete an IRB Protocol Summary Form in preparation for project work or future research.

# Future Milwaukee/Professional Projects

## What is Future Milwaukee?

- Future Milwaukee (FM) is Greater Milwaukee area's oldest, most established, and most active community leadership development organization.
- Since 1978, over 1,300 graduates of Future Milwaukee have been working throughout Milwaukee in various corporate and private sector, public sector, educational and non-profit professional capacities.
- The program focuses on developing individual leadership competencies through both a curriculum and real world application inside and outside of the workplace.

## Future Milwaukee's Structure

- 9-month program, running September through May
- Meets Monday evenings from 6-9 p.m. every two weeks throughout the Great Milwaukee area
- Tuition for this nine-month, 22-session program, is \$1800 (with limited amount of financial aid available)
- Partner with two agencies
  - **Fall** – Each group will select an organization to work with and will design, implement and complete a project in collaboration with the host organization
  - **Spring** – Each group will be assigned to a host organization and will work with this organization to implement a project proposed by the host organization

# Future Milwaukee/Professional Projects

## Professional Project Summary

- 6-credit professional project is designed for students to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired throughout the degree program.
- It is an opportunity for the student to:
  - apply discipline specific theory and principle to a project that is usually conducted within an organizational setting
  - primary way for students to demonstrate that they have achieved the program's learning outcomes.
- The capstone experience culminates with a scholarly paper that describes the project and its outcomes in terms of theory and concepts from the discipline.
- In most instances, students will finish their project within one year of completing their coursework.

## Professional Project Steps

- Student enrolls in six credits (completed over 2 semesters) of the Professional Project (Capstone I and Capstone II) and meets with capstone instructor throughout the two semesters. The capstone instructor provides students and project directors with logistical and process assistance throughout the project.
- Student obtains consent from graduate faculty member who will serve as project director.
- Student and project director work together to determine project scope, methodology, feasibility, and to complete the professional project outline form from the graduate school and IRB request (as needed).
- Student, with project director's approval, submits completed project outline to College of Professional Studies (CPS) Director of Graduate Programs for approval (for MLS & MAPS students, this is Professor Caulfield); once approved, outline is submitted to the graduate school for final approval.
- Once approval is given by BOTH the graduate school and the IRB (if required), the student may begin collecting data for the project.
- Once project is completed and approved by the student's project director, the project is submitted to the CPS Director of Graduate Studies for approval. Upon approval, the project is submitted to the graduate school for final approval.
- Students present completed project to CPS faculty and students.

## Partnership Reasoning & Logistics

- Ron Kuramoto and Leslee Ruscitti will serve as project advisors as they have access to what FM members are doing for their projects and what they are responsible for doing in the College.
- Students will be responsible for working with their FM groups to submit the project agreed upon between FM and the project partners. Students will include this information with their professional project, but will be responsible for creating a scholarly paper which includes theory and a literature review as well.
- Students will still have to pay full tuition for the six credit professional project, and the FM cost will be taken from this tuition.
- Attendance at FM meetings is required, and students will be required to attend the Capstone courses.
- Students wishing to pursue this option will have to apply for the FM program and complete the same application and interviews as all other applicants.