**The professional thesis is an original research investigation utilizing quantitative, qualitative or rhetorical methods to explore a specific communication trend, event or phenomenon.**

**The professional project is a clear demonstration of communication knowledge to create a specific industry product (e.g., social media plans, video documentaries, training manuals, workshops, university course creation, etc.).**

**The advanced industry internship is designed to help students gain legitimate industry work consistent with post-graduation career goals. The internship must be sponsored by a legitimate on-site professional and should be at least 1 semester.**

In addition to these requirements, the prospectus must be submitted by the second Friday of the semester in which students plan to take the 3 required hours of capstone (either COMM 6900 for thesis or COMM 6998 for internships or projects). Any student failing to meet that deadline will need to take the capstone credits in the following semester.

Each student is required to have a committee chair that will direct the capstone to completion. All chairs must be in place the semester before completing the prospectus. Members of the Department Graduate Council will read the prospectus and provide input to solidify the core idea and help shape and approve the prospectus. The approval process will occur within 2 weeks of submission. Once the prospectus is approved, the student will work directly with his/her chair and work to complete the project in time to present at the Department Capstone Symposium and finalize all paper work. Presentations will take place on the final Thursday of the semester. Students who wish to complete the capstone during the summer will need to submit their prospectus 2 weeks before the end of the semester. Students also need to secure approval from their capstone chair to enroll in capstone hours during the summer session.