

UCLA

Disability Studies 198A/B or 199A/B

Capstone Expectations

Description

Students pursuing the Disability Studies minor must complete a capstone experience by either enrolling in a Disability Studies 191 Seminar Class in the Spring of their final year or in Disability Studies 199A/B. Students pursuing College Honors are expected to enroll in Disability Studies 198A/B.

Disability Studies 198A/B and 199A/B are independent research courses designed to allow motivated students an opportunity to conduct individual and independent research under the close supervision of a UCLA faculty member on a topic related to Disability Studies.

The project for the capstone is expected to integrate and synthesize learning from earlier coursework and previous research as well as draw upon internship experiences. A well developed project should (1) frame a significant question or set of questions, (2) focus on a specialized topic, (3) draw upon sound methodological principles, (4) provide broad context by integrating knowledge from across disciplines, (5) and reflect on how the capstone research contributes to the emerging field of Disability Studies.

Project

The project for the Disability Studies capstone project will commonly take the form of a long research paper. While there is no set page minimum or maximum, students enrolled in the six-unit course will typically author a paper in the 20-35 page range. For students enrolled in the honors version of the course, papers are expected to range 30-45 pages.

A capstone project in Disability Studies may also include non-written elements. For example, students may engage in a project that complements their major field of study (e.g. film, computer science, architecture, engineering, and music). In such instances, students must submit a capstone proposal to the Disability Studies faculty committee for approval.

Finally, at the discretion of the faculty sponsor and in addition to a written report, students may also be asked to orally present their research in an appropriate format.

The Capstone Quarters

The Capstone project takes place over 2 quarters. Prior to the start of their capstone quarter, students must complete a Disability Studies 198A or 199A contract on their my.ucla.edu account. Beginning the first week of the term, students are expected to attend weekly meetings with their faculty advisor and must be prepared to discuss progress on their research topic. Advisors are expected to provide feedback on students' progress, make referrals to appropriate resources, and comment frequently on students' written work throughout the term.

Any questions or concerns about the capstone requirement can be directed to the faculty advisor or the minor's advisor, Cyndi Tando (ctando@college.ucla.edu).