

Doctoral Capstones: Opening Doors for Occupational Therapy Practice

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Objectives

By the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to:

- Describe the purposes of the Capstone Experience and Capstone Project
- Compare and contrast the capstone to fieldwork
- Explain the major responsibilities of an on-site capstone mentor
- Identify practice setting needs and apply to potential capstone opportunities

All About Us

Midwestern University



University of Illinois at Chicago



Rush University



Tell Us About Yourself!

- Are you a student, practitioner, educator, or other?
- What setting do you work in (or want to work in)?
- Why are you attending this session?

Introduction to the Capstone Experience & Capstone Project

Capstone Experience

- A “full-time in-depth exposure in a concentrated area that may include on-site and off-site activities that meets developed goals/objectives of the doctoral capstone” (ACOTE, 2018, p. 47).
- **Student requirements:**
 - Complete all didactic coursework & Level II FW
- **Focused tracks:**
 - Clinical Practice
 - Research
 - Administration
 - Leadership
 - Program and Policy Development
 - Advocacy
 - Education
 - Theory Development
- Students are **mentored** at the capstone site by a content expert (**does not need to be an occupational therapist**).

TE, 2018)

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Capstone Project

- A “project that is completed by a doctoral-level student that demonstrates the student’s ability to relate theory to practice and to synthesize in-depth knowledge in a practice area that relates to the capstone experience” (ACOTE, 2018, p. 47).
- The Capstone Project is related to the experience and helps to inform the kinds of activities in which the student might engage during the Capstone Experience. It does not, however, constitute all the activities of the Capstone Experience.
- Students will complete an individual capstone project.
- Upon completion, students must disseminate their project.

TE, 2018)

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Responsibilities of an On-Site Capstone Mentor

- Collaborate with the student as they conduct a needs assessment to develop their Capstone Project.
- Collaborate with the student and faculty to develop a memorandum of understanding for the doctoral capstone experience that includes:
 - Individualized specific objectives,
 - Plans for supervision or mentoring, and
 - Responsibilities of all parties.
- Provide guidance to the student throughout the Capstone Experience as the student engages in various learning activities and conducts and evaluates their Capstone Project.
- Contribute to the formal evaluation of the student's performance during the Capstone Experience.

(OTE, 2018)

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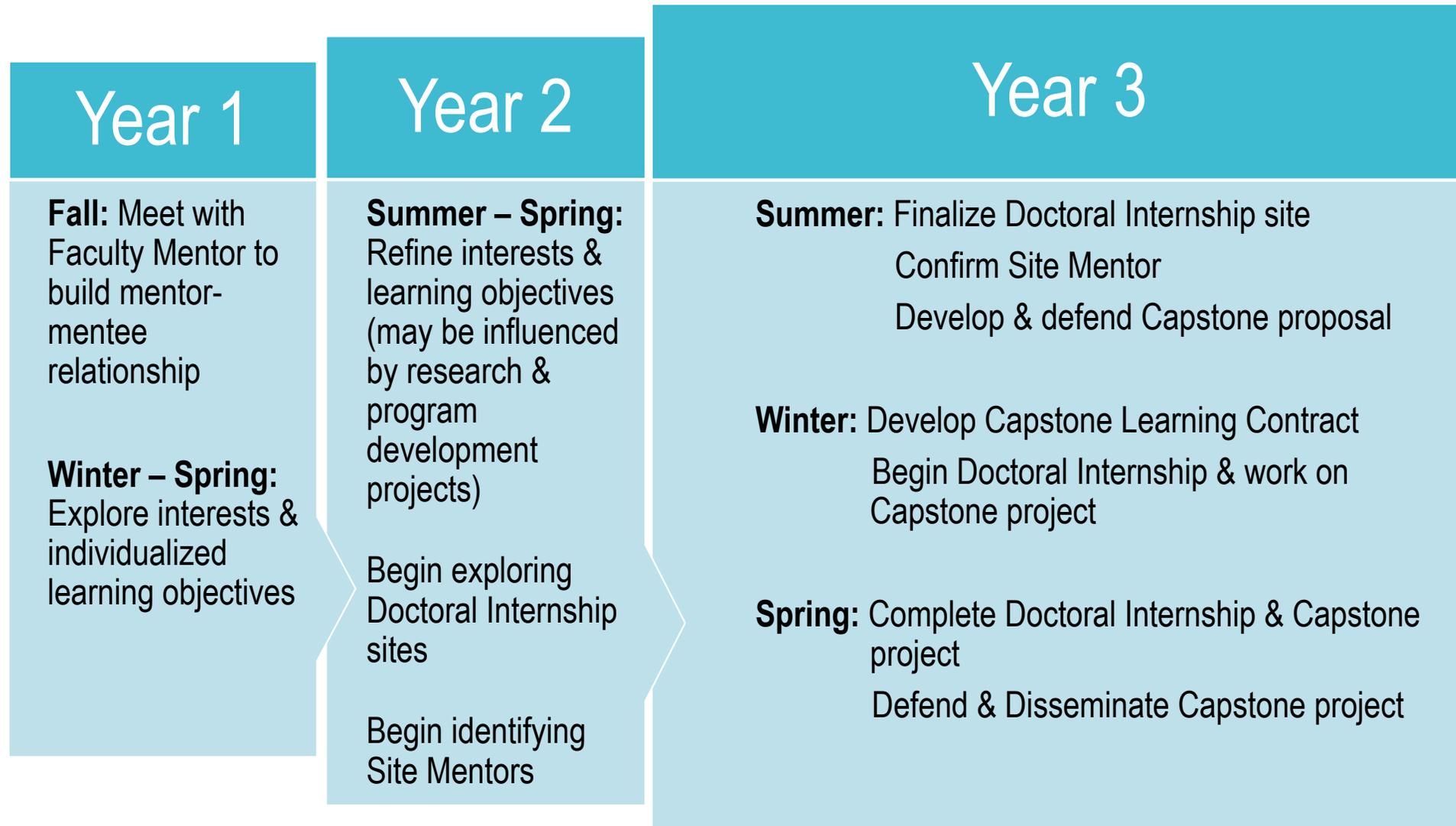
Differences between Fieldwork and the Capstone Experience

Characteristic	Level II Fieldwork	Doctoral Experiential Component
ACOTE Goal	“Entry-Level Generalist”	“Advanced Skills” beyond generalist level
Administrator	Academic Fieldwork Coordinator	Doctoral Capstone Coordinator / Director of Capstone Development
Supervisor & Credential	Fieldwork Educator – OTR/L	Site Mentor – may/may not be an OTR/L
Time	12 weeks full-time (480 hours)	14 weeks (560 hours)
Productivity	Gradual build up caseload....at end typical units of one FTE	May/may not bill for services (depending on the site/experience)

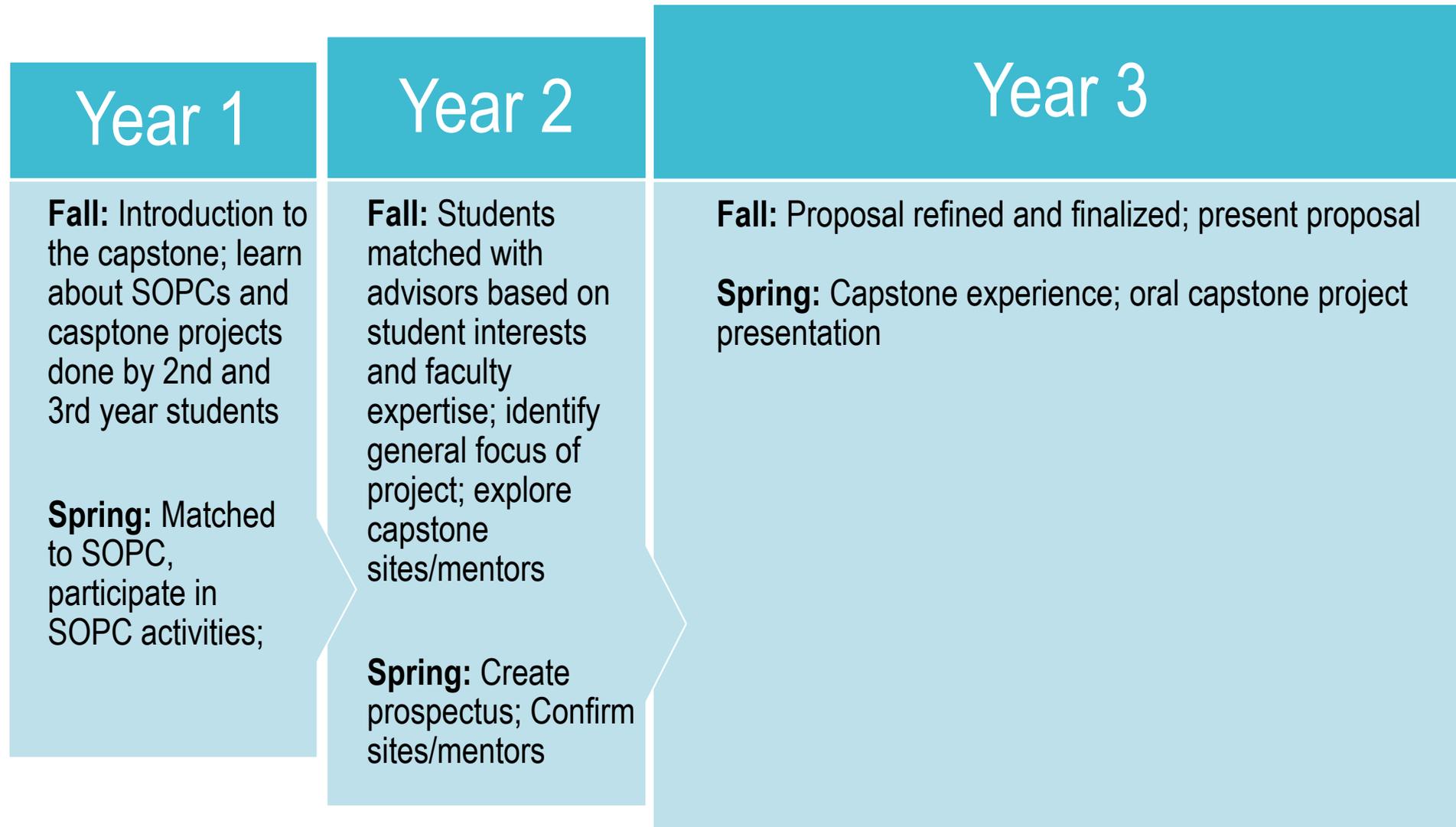
Characteristic	Level II Fieldwork	Doctoral Experiential Component
Location	100% of time on site	At least 80% of time on site
Duties	Provide direct or indirect services to client	Provide direct or indirect services to client, organization, or population
Learning Objectives	Site develops (w/ input from AFWC & student)	Student develops (w/ input from Site Mentor & Faculty Mentor)
Evaluation	Fieldwork Performance Evaluation	Individualized evaluation (based on program specific goals and student goals)
Placements	AFWC with student input	Student with Site & Faculty Mentor input

Capstone Timelines

Timeline of Capstone Process at Northwestern



Timeline of Capstone Process at UIC



Timeline of Capstone Process at Rush

Semesters 1 & 2

Introduce Doctoral
Capstone Experience
(DCE)

Begin exploring areas of
interest

Meet with Doctoral
Capstone Coordinator
(DCC)

Semester 3

Identify topic(s) of
interest

Continue meeting with
DCC

Semester 4

Program Development
course

Identify faculty mentor

Semester 5

Identify site & site
mentor

Develop proposal for
DCE

Complete MOU

Semester 6

Develop Capstone
Project proposal

Semester 7

Complete competencies

Finalize
experience/project plan

Semester 8

Complete DCE

Complete & defend
capstone project

Capstone Examples

Clinical Practice at an Outpatient Cancer Center

Capstone Project

Develop a clinical pathway for best practice in lymphedema treatment using L-Dex data

Capstone Experience

- Training in lymphedema techniques
- Manage a small caseload of lymphedema patients
- Complete data collection and analysis
- Manage a small caseload of lymphedema patients
- Develop portfolio to meet lymphedema certification requirements

Program Development at a local Children's Advocacy Center

Capstone Project

Develop an occupation-based program to enhance occupational participation of children who have experienced abuse and neglect

Capstone Experience

- Assist with facilitating existing groups
- Attend community events to educate the public on warning signs of children who may be experiencing abuse or neglect
- Complete occupation-based or occupation-focused assessments with children during intake

Advocacy at a Mayor's Office on Disability

Capstone Project

Develop a training program for hospitality industry staff to advocate for access and inclusion for people with disabilities

Capstone Experience

- Complete an environmental assessment of physical access for local hotels
- Work on projects within the Mayor's office to support disability access
- Plan for hospitality industry conference on disability
- Develop a training manual on providing services and access to people with disabilities within the hospitality industry

Research at an Organization for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Capstone Project

Complete a research study to explore, identify, and define the occupational needs of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation

Capstone Experience

- Conduct a nation-wide survey of staff members who work with survivors of trafficking
- Conduct interviews and focus groups with survivors of trafficking
- Perform non-invasive observations of survivors at a safe house and in the community
- Analyze all qualitative and quantitative data gathered

Education at an OT Program

Capstone Project

Develop academic coursework addressing the use of 3D printing within intervention and activity analysis classes

Capstone Experience

- Attend a webinar/course on the use of 3D printers
- Shadow medical engineering department use of 3D printing
- Collaborate with the prosthetics department where they use 3D printing
- Deliver a lecture presentation in an OT class

Administration at a Pediatric Outpatient Clinic

Capstone Project

Develop a formal onboarding process for new hires at the clinic

Capstone Experience

- Develop educational modules on common assessment tools and interventions used in the setting
- Facilitate an EBP journal club
- Assist with planning staff meetings and staff development opportunities
- Conduct staff satisfaction surveys
- Manage a small caseload

Whole Group Discussion

- How can you see an OTD student participating in a Capstone at your site?
 - What needs does your department/facility have?
 - What are the needs of the clients you serve?
- What other community organizations can you envision benefitting from an OTD student's efforts through a Capstone?
- Share your ideas here: <https://bit.ly/2MAB7eP>

Feel free to
contact us!

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