

University of MN OTD Capstone Frequently Asked Questions

How is Capstone different than Level II FW?

See below for a brief comparison:

	Level II FW	Capstone
When	After didactic courses	After successful completion of all coursework and Level II FW
Time	24 weeks full time total-100% onsite	14 weeks full time -80% of time must be onsite(s)
Where	Clinical or Community sites with an OT presence	Clinical or Community sites, does NOT have to have an OT presence
Goal	To produce a generalist who can translate what they have learned about the OT Process and interprofessional skills in any setting to other settings in an entry level capacity.	To extend and refine knowledge & skills acquired in the curriculum to develop advanced skills (those beyond a generalist level) in an in-depth, customized experience specific to the needs of both the capstone site and the learning objectives of the student.
Focus	Developing clinical skills by implementing the OT process at one organization at a time and producing work at the volume expected for a new graduate for the setting by the end of the experience.	Expanding professional skills in an area of in-depth focus. May be involved with more than one site depending on the area of focus.
Role of Faculty	NA except for FW Coordinator	Serve as Capstone Advisors and have a strong influence over the objectives established and the design of the data driven project. Are available to consult with student and onsite educator(s) as needed to keep project going and rolling out as designed. Lead the committee for defense processes (proposal and final deliverable)
Role of Onsite Educators	Provide direct supervision per site. Must be an OT.	Oversee the day to day activities as established per the successfully defended capstone plan. Consult with faculty adviser as needed. Does not need to be an OT.
Assessment of Learning	AOTA FW Performance Evaluation and course activities	Evaluation of day to day activities by onsite educator; evaluation of the deliverable by onsite educator and faculty mentor; successful defense of final project and deliverable with committee.

The activities during a capstone experience are very different than what is expected on a Level II FW. Even for an advanced clinical practice experience, the emphasis is less on patient care in general and more on developing advanced skills with a select type of patient or intervention and building an advanced based of knowledge. For example, a capstone student pursuing an advanced clinical practice experience in neurorehabilitation might spend their time this way:

- 20-40% in direct patient care, under the supervision of an OT, with specific patients that have higher level needs and/or in a specific population for whom a specific intervention might be warranted
- Attend continuing education (e.g., getting trained in a specific higher level intervention)
- Research the specific population or intervention (e.g., literature review; visiting other clinics that use it, etc.)
- Implement a research project about that population or intervention at your site
- Collect data on site for the project
- Analyze the data
- Report it back to your site (e.g., staff in service, etc.).

Does the onsite mentor need to be an OT who practices at the site?

No. Even for an advanced clinical practice capstone, the person on site who serves as the students mentor does not need to be an OT at all or an OT who is onsite full time. Selection of an onsite mentor is based on expertise in the area of focus for the student. In the advanced clinical practice example above, the onsite mentor might be the rehab manager (from any discipline) who oversees the services and interventions offered in the given setting. The student would still receive supervision from OTs onsite for any direct patient care provided however they do not necessarily have to be the student's capstone mentor.

What are the benefits for taking a capstone student?

- Capstone students do not require the same amount of effort or energy from your staff as level II FW students. Capstone is a more self-directed experience that allows the student to really develop advanced skills in their area of interest.
- Capstone students will do a needs assessment with you prior to starting their capstone with you in order to collaborate with you and your team to determine a project that is beneficial to both your site and the student's learning goals.
- Capstone students spend 14 full time weeks with you working on their experience and project and leave you with their end product (e.g., a new program, protocol, data, etc.)
- Capstone students can help move initiatives and ideas your team may have that you just don't have time to accomplish.
- Capstone students carry out their projects under the advisement of a UMN OT faculty member so that the final product is robust and useful to your site.

Is there any cost to taking a capstone student?

No. Just like Level II FW students, capstone students come to you with liability insurance and other provisions outlined in the Affiliation agreements in place with your institution.