

Table of Contents:**MED CAPSTONE SPECIALIZATION LIBRARY THESIS CONTRACT****Unit 1: Selection and Approval of Topic Contract and PPT Presentation****Unit 2: Draft of Annotated Bibliography and Paper Outline****Unit 3: Final Specialization Library Thesis****M.Ed. CAPSTONE SPECIALIZATION LIBRARY THESIS CONTRACT**

In the final Capstone course, candidates will write a library-researched thesis on a controversial topic appropriate to their specialization. **The topic must be a controversial issue facing the field of education specific to your specialization and not a problem that is addressed at the local level.** The topic must be an issue or problem that has experts suggesting at least two (2) distinct sides to the issue, both presenting valid points of view. The candidate will be expected to complete an extensive and intensive discussion of all sides of the chosen issue, giving specific strengths and weaknesses of both sides with equal fervor. All points of view must be backed by appropriate research data, not just opinions, and the points of view must be given equal representation. The candidate must then address how they would deal with a disagreement among educational stakeholders on this issue. In a conclusion section, the candidate will present their own thoughts and ideas justified by supporting sources. Extensive use of primary source information will be expected.

The final Specialization Library Thesis narrative should reflect the use of **at least two (2) research studies with data for each side of the discussion** and **at least three (3) peer-reviewed expert sources for each side of the issue, properly cited and referenced**, to support the discussion. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the annotated bibliography research step include at least 15 academic sources. The annotated bibliography must follow correct APA professional format as described in the APA Publication Manual. The final Specialization Library Thesis must be written in APA professional manuscript format and must include the following:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Discussion of the overall topic
- Discussion of various points of view
- Review of the literature and data supporting different points of view
- Discussion of how to deal with a disagreement among education stakeholders on this issue
- Conclusions of the author supported by data
- Reference page
- Annotated bibliography in an appendix

The Library Thesis must be original work, created and completed by the candidate during the active Capstone class session, and must reflect mastery of specialization content knowledge and skills. **The final Library Thesis will be due at the end of Unit 3.** On average, successful Library Thesis submissions range in length from 20–25 pages of content (not including the title page, abstract, references, or appendix) to accommodate the expected depth appropriate to reflect mastery. This is an intensive and time-sensitive mastery deliverable. Therefore, following the time lines is a critical step toward success.

Specifically, the Library Thesis requirement spans three (3) units with deliverables due as follows:

Unit 1: Selection and Approval of Topic Contract and PPT Presentation

80 points available (see scoring distribution and rubric below)

Part One – Topic Selection, Contract Signature, and Faculty Approval

Candidates must be sure to research and verify that there are suitable research studies and peer-reviewed sources for both sides of the issue **BEFORE** submitting the topic to faculty for approval.

Candidate topic for approval is _____.

Faculty approval must be obtained prior to beginning work and for any change of topic once approved. This contract must be submitted and approved by faculty at the beginning of the Capstone experience and prior to candidate submission of any other assignments (excluding intellipath® and Unit 1 DB postings). After reading this Specialization Library Thesis Contract, fill in the requested topic above, sign this contract below, and **e-mail this completed document to your faculty member as instructed in the Unit 1 Individual Project assignment within the Virtual Campus.**

Part Two – Approved Topic Presentation

Prepare a PowerPoint presentation that explains your approved Capstone project thesis idea. Assume that you are making a presentation to an approval committee for permission to move forward on your project. Include the following:

- Provide a summary of the project idea.
- Provide your rationale for choosing the topic.
- List your personal growth objectives anticipated by participating in a Capstone experience.
- Describe how this Capstone experience will reflect what you have learned in this program and specifically, your specialization.

This presentation should focus on your anticipated personal growth from participating in a graduate-level Capstone experience and provide a reflection opportunity for you to tie in your

core and specialization content mastery. Remember to use brief bullet points, charts, graphs, and other appropriate visuals. The presentation should reflect mastery of tools and design. Use the Notes feature to include your presentation script. Include supporting sources as necessary. Be sure your presentation product reflects a graduate-level work product.

Submit the PPT file to the Assignment Submission area of the classroom.

Unit 1 Topic, Contract, Presentation, and Video Scoring Rubric

Topic Selection and Signed Contract: Candidate reads Specialization Library Thesis contract requirements, selects topic, and submits signed contract to faculty. **(10 possible points)**

Approved Topic PowerPoint Presentation:
(70 possible points)

Purpose of Assignment and Content Development	<p>Demonstrates outstanding or exemplary use of appropriate, relevant, and innovative content demonstrating mastery of the subject to solve problems and analyze current trends, theories, opportunities, and challenges.</p> <p>All requirements of the assignment are included in the response.</p>	21 points possible
Organization, Grammar, and Presentation	<p>Demonstrates outstanding or exemplary application of written, visual, or oral skills.</p> <p>Demonstrates outstanding expression of topic, main idea, and purpose.</p> <p>Audience is addressed appropriately.</p> <p>Language clearly and effectively communicates ideas and content relevant to the assignment.</p> <p>Errors in grammar, spelling, and sentence structure are minimal.</p> <p>Organization is clear.</p> <p>Format is consistently appropriate to the assignment and follows assignment requirements.</p>	21 points possible

	Presentation and delivery are confident and persuasive (where applicable).	
Information Literacy and Research	Demonstrates outstanding selection and use of high-quality, credible, and relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate to the assignment. Sources are consistently cited according to required documentation (e.g., APA) with almost no errors.	10.5 points possible
Critical Thinking	Demonstrates outstanding or exemplary ability to evaluate, integrate, and critique a wide range of opinions, beliefs, abstract ideas, and data to inform judgment, identify and solve problems, and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.	17.5 points possible

Unit 2: Draft of Annotated Bibliography and Paper Outline

100 points available (see scoring rubric below)

Description:

The candidate must submit a draft of the annotated bibliography being created as part of the Specialization Library Thesis. Be sure to review the APA Publication Manual for proper annotated bibliography formatting. The draft annotated bibliography must include the minimum at least one (1) research study with data **for each side of the discussion** and at least two (2) peer-reviewed expert sources **for each side of the issue**, properly cited and referenced.

The candidate must also submit an outline of the planned Specialization Library Thesis including the major topics to be discussed in the paper.

Unit 2 Annotated Bibliography and Outline Scoring Rubric

Content and Purpose: The paper must be an extensive outline and an annotated bibliography reflecting the literature reviewed from experts on each side of the issue. Research data must also be included for each side of the issue. A minimum of two (2) research data sources and three (3) peer-reviewed expert sources for each side of the issue must be included in the annotated bibliography. The annotation must discuss which side of the issue is reflected and how the material will be used in the final paper. The outline must include the issues where sides differ that will be discussed. **(30 points possible)**

Organization, Grammar, and Presentation: The paper is well-organized. The sources are listed alphabetically as they would be in a reference page. Each source is followed by a



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paragraph describing its use and purpose. There are no spelling or grammatical errors. **(20 points possible)**

Information Literacy: The sources are all appropriate, peer-reviewed sources and research data and are correctly referenced. **(20 points possible)**

Critical Thinking: The analysis of the issue is demonstrated by the sources organized and the discussion. **(30 points possible)**

Unit 3: Final Specialization Library Thesis

260 points available (see scoring rubric below)

Description:

Your final Specialization Library Thesis is due in Unit 3. Refer to the specific details described on the first page of this contract as a reminder of the final content required. The final Specialization Library Thesis product must be written in APA professional manuscript format and must include the following sections:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Discussion of the overall topic
- Discussion of various points of view
- Review of the literature and data supporting different points of view
- Discussion of how to deal with a disagreement among education stakeholders on this issue
- Conclusions of the author supported by data
- Reference page (references must align with in-text citations used within the thesis narrative)
- Final annotated bibliography provided as an appendix

Unit 3 Final Specialization Library Thesis Scoring Rubric

Purpose of Assignment and Content Development: Demonstrates outstanding or exemplary use of appropriate, relevant, and innovative content demonstrating mastery of the subject to solve problems and analyze current trends, theories, opportunities, and challenges. All requirements of the assignment are included in the response, including: discussion of an approved controversial issue in the field of education that has at least 2 distinct sides, both with valid points of view and an extensive discussion of each side, providing (at least 2) research data sources supporting each of the views and (at least 3) peer-reviewed expert sources. Discussion includes a complete explanation of the views expressed and includes strengths and weaknesses of each side and a



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discussion of how as an educational leader you would deal with differing sides of this issue among stakeholders. **(70 points possible)**

Organization, Grammar, and Presentation: Demonstrates outstanding or exemplary application of written and visual skills. Demonstrates outstanding expression of topic, main idea, and purpose. Errors in grammar, spelling, and sentence structure are minimal. Paper is written in correct APA format, including title page, headers, abstract, topic headings, citations, references, and an annotated bibliography in the appendix. **(70 points possible)**

Information Literacy and Research: Demonstrates outstanding selection and use of high-quality, credible, and relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate to the assignment. Sources are consistently cited according to required documentation (APA), with almost no errors. Research data, as well as expert opinions, are provided on each side of the issue. **(50 points possible)**

Critical Thinking: Demonstrates outstanding or exemplary ability to evaluate, integrate, and critique a wide range of opinions, beliefs, abstract ideas, and data to inform judgment, identify and solve problems, and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses. Analysis of the differing sides is original work of the writer and not just a paraphrase of a source. Clear justifications for both sides of the issue are provided. The author's opinion is justified by the presentation of the data. **(70 points possible)**

Specialization Library Thesis Contract Signatures

By signing below, the candidate officially requests the above topic approval and agrees to abide by the assignment terms and grading conditions.

The candidate may contact the instructor at any point during the course for advice or assistance.

Candidate Signature

Date

By signing below, the faculty approves the topic stated above and agrees to grade it according to the rubrics defined within.

Faculty Signature

Date