

## UW-La Crosse Creates New Capstone Completion Opportunity

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### **Background**

In 2001, when UW-La Crosse was permitted the opportunity to grant an Education Specialist (EdS) degree, it was required that there would be a capstone activity. This capstone was determined to be a Specialist thesis (i.e., SPY 800 and SPY 801). While the theses produced by students have been exemplary, an alternative opportunity within the Practitioner-Scholar orientation of the program has been created. All levels of university governance have approved this option.

### **Actions**

- The thesis option (SPY 800 *and* 801) has not changed, so students desiring to complete a traditional thesis can still do so.
  
- The creation of a new option (SPY 802 *and* 803) has been developed. The specifics are as follows:
  1. SPY 802 Research/Specialist Project: This is one of two components of the capstone requirement for the Education Specialist degree. Students complete a project on an approved topic related to school psychology. Students may opt to complete:
    - (a) a research project culminating a poster/presentation at an appropriate conference/outlet *or*
    - (b) a comprehensive research proposal with an extensive literature review, in addition to a defense to a committee.

*and*

2. SPY 803 Case Conceptualization Project: This is one component of the capstone requirement for the Education Specialist degree. Students complete a written and oral presentation to a committee, defending their assessment methodology and outcomes for a child evaluated in a school setting.

### **Summary**

There are now two tracks to complete your capstone requirement for the Education Specialist degree in school psychology. Program faculty members are available to provide more specifics about each option and how this may apply to you.