



ACOTE D STANDARDS

D.1.1. *Collaboration for Designing the Doctoral Capstone* (2018 standard D.1.2. & D.1.6)

Ensure that the doctoral capstone is designed through collaboration with the student, a **faculty member** in the occupational therapy educational program who holds a doctoral degree, and an individual with documented **expertise in the content area** of the capstone.

D.1.2. *Content Expert for Doctoral Capstone*

Document that the content expert is informed of the plan for and purpose of the doctoral capstone and **has content expertise in the focus area.**

D.1.3. *Design and Preparation of Doctoral Capstone*

(2018 Standard D.1.1., 1.2., & 1.3.)

Document that the doctoral capstone is an integral part of the program's curriculum design and:

- **Reflects** the mission and philosophy of the program.
- Contributes to the development of **in-depth knowledge** in the designated area of interest.
- Includes preparation consisting of a **literature review, needs assessment, goals/objectives**, and a **plan to evaluate** project outcomes.

This must be completed **prior** to the commencement of the 14-week doctoral capstone experience. **The doctoral capstone must be started after completion of all coursework and Level II fieldwork.**

D.1.3. Additional Clarification

- Literature Review/ Needs Assessment
 - Program to determine the scope of these tasks in relation to the capstone
 - Specific to the design and capstone preparation
- Refer to the glossary
 - **CAPSTONE PROJECT:** An individual 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.

D.1.4. *Experiential Plan and Written Agreement for Doctoral Capstone*

Document that the process for ensuring **valid written agreements** between the organization and the program are in effect **prior to and for the duration** of the capstone experience.

Ensure that there is a valid **plan** for the individual doctoral capstone experience that, at a minimum, includes:

- Individualized specific doctoral capstone experience objectives
- Plans for evaluation, supervision, and mentoring
- Responsibilities of all parties

The agreement must be signed by all parties.

No changes from 2018 standard

D.1.5. *Length of Doctoral Capstone Experience*

Require that the length of the doctoral capstone experience be a **minimum of 14 weeks' full-time**, and a **minimum of 32 hours per week**. This may be completed on a part-time basis as agreed upon by the organization and must be consistent with the individualized specific objectives and capstone project. This must be equivalent in length to 14 full-time of at least 32 hours per week.

The program must have a **mechanism to document** that the **students meet the requirements for capstone length**. Prior fieldwork or work experience may not be substituted for this doctoral capstone experience.

D.1.5. Additional Clarification

- Need to align experience with objectives of the project and plan.
- Context/physical location highly dependent upon type and objective of project.
- Minimum requirement and allows flexibility; depend on policies to **minimum hours** and how hours can be made up.

D.1.6. *Doctoral Capstone Project*

(2018 Standard D.1.8.)

Ensure completion and dissemination of an **individual** doctoral capstone project that relates to the doctoral capstone experience and **demonstrates synthesis of in-depth knowledge** in the focused area of study.

No changes from 2018 standard

D.1.7. *Evaluation of Doctoral Capstone*

Document a formal evaluation mechanism for objective assessment of the student's performance **during and at the completion** of the doctoral capstone.

No changes from 2018 standard