

GUIDELINES FOR CAPP INDEPENDENT STUDY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

NOTE: You must also conform to College Guidelines for Special Studies projects.

MULTIMEDIA OR OTHER DEVELOPMENT INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECTS

The following guidelines apply to CAPP independent study classes related to multimedia or other development projects. All such projects must conform to the following general criteria:

1. There must be a legitimate need for the independent study course (i.e., the project is meaningful and relevant, and no other existing class could fulfill the educational need).
2. The work entailed by the project is reasonable academically, and the timeline/deliverables are clearly specified.
3. The process for advising the student and for evaluating the student's work involves appropriate subject-matter and technical advisors.

CAPP independent studies for a multimedia or other development project will require you to complete a significant body of work that combines technology in some way with an academically acceptable content knowledge area or discipline, such as your primary major. You must submit a written proposal outlining the specifics of your project in detail, including:

- The particular disciplinary topic you will study;
- Who will act as your subject-matter advisor in the topic area you chose;
- Who will serve as your technical advisor for matters related to learning and implementation of the technology that will be included in your project (multimedia, web, etc.);
- What your deliverables will be, and when they will be provided; NOTE: you must have at least three deliverables -- a content design document, a technology design document, and the final working product.

It is your responsibility to specify the details of your project in a written proposal due 10-14 days prior to the beginning pre-registration date in the semester before you expect to enroll in the independent study course. Your proposal will be reviewed by a special CAPP committee. The proposal must be approved before you will be allowed to pre-register. The committee will provide you with feedback on your proposal as soon as possible, but it will be to your advantage to submit your proposal to the committee as early as possible. In your proposal, which should be at least 2-3 pages, you need to be very specific about how the bulleted points noted above will be addressed.

Below is an example of what a CAPP independent study project in this category might involve. This is only an example, but your proposed project should emulate this example in the sense of combining a significant disciplinary learning experience with development of a technology-based application using the three-part deliverable schedule. In this example, the student is interested in doing multimedia project that tells a story about some important aspect of history, such as a topic related to World War II. The project would unfold in three parts.

Part I of the project would require the student to find a subject-matter expert advisor (SME), for example a willing professor in History. Together with the SME, the student would define the knowledge scope and content of the project. Then, the student and the SME would identify what original research on the WWII topic the student would need to do, which might include doing specific assigned readings, locating pictures, audio files, interviews, etc. The content and media would be selected so as to be relevant to the story to be told about the topic. In this part of the project, the student would actually learn concrete things about the designated history topic. The deliverable for Part I would be a 15-20 page research and content design document containing the content details of the story, the references consulted, and a specific listing of the media or other resources necessary for an accurate and complete presentation of the topic.

In Part II of the project, the student would work with a technical advisor to cast the project content into a multimedia format to tell the story. For this part of the project, the student would need to learn about whatever software applications would be needed for the final presentation, as well as about relevant esthetic/design issues like colors, timing, graphics, etc. This part, too, no doubt will involve assigned readings and will represent another important learning exercise, this time related to the development technology to be used in the project. The deliverable for Part II would be a 15-20 page technology design document including a detailed outline, flowchart, or storyboard showing how the content will be presented using the chosen technology.

Finally, in Part III of the project, the student would put the two previous parts together into a final working deliverable that would become the completed multimedia presentation. Ideally, the finished product would be significant and interesting enough to have it auditioned somewhere on campus at the end of the semester or beginning of the next, and then possibly moved to the CAPP website for archiving and display.

Remember, this is an example, but it illustrates the kind of project that would be acceptable to the CAPP committee under the present guidelines. Just like any other 3-credit course, this category of CAPP independent study course will involve a lot of work, but it will provide an opportunity to learn how to combine technology learning with disciplinary content learning in an interesting and valuable way.

In summary, to enroll in a CAPP independent study course for a multimedia or other development project, you must:

- Identify an academically acceptable disciplinary learning experience and a willing subject matter advisor;
- Identify a technical advisor;
- Submit a detailed written proposal at least two weeks prior to the pre-registration period in the semester before the course will be taken; the proposal must specify project details and deliverables and must include endorsements from all advisors;
- Obtain written approval from the CAPP review committee that the proposal meets the necessary requirements outlined above.

All proposals should be submitted on or before the above due date by email to ccrowell@nd.edu. If you need suggestions for subject-matter or technical advisors, please contact the Director of CAPP well before you start work on your proposal.