Capstone Course for Data Science Master’s Program

The requirements of the Data Science Master’s Program include a capstone course (3-4 credit hours). There are essentially two approaches for completing the capstone requirement. The first is taking an approved course. Currently, the approved courses include BIOSTAT 698, BIOSTAT 699, SI 699-004 and STATS 504. Some sections of BIOSTAT 610, EECS 598, EECS 599, SI 691 or STATS 750 can also serve as capstone if approved.

The second approach is to conduct a research project with a UM faculty advisor who works extensively with data (see (e) below). To do so, please follow the process below.

1. Write a proposal and get it pre-approved by both your research advisor and your assigned DS Master’s Program advisor. The proposal should contain the following information.
   a) Describe the overall project you will be working on.
   b) The project must have a data-science component. Zoom in on that and describe the work involved in more detail; for instance, maybe you will be writing a code, proving a theory, developing a new data platform, analyzing a large data set, etc.
   c) Provide an estimate of how much work per week will be involved.
   d) Describe the deliverables if any.
   e) The project must be supervised by a UM faculty that you identify on your own from any academic department. The faculty must have expertise (e.g., in terms of their teaching or research) in data science. Please provide some information in that regard, and also cc the faculty on your email requesting the pre-approval.

2. Once the proposal is approved, you need to register for a 3-4 credit hour research (or directed study) course with the faculty advisor.

3. Submit a copy of your project report to the program coordinator when the course is over.

Some Data Science Master’s students are interested in joining the MDP program. The projects offered by MDP may potentially be suitable for the capstone project. However, they must also be pre-approved by following the process described above.