MDS Capstone Guidelines

The requirements of the Master’s of Data Science (MDS) program include a capstone course. There are essentially two approaches for completing the capstone requirement.

The first approach is taking one of the approved courses: BIOSTAT 698, BIOSTAT 699, and STATS 504. Some sections of BIOSTAT 610, EECS 598, EECS 599, SI 691, SI 699, and STATS 750 can also serve as capstone if approved.

The second approach is to conduct a research project with a U-M 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 faculty 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 U-M 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 copy (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 independent study course with a faculty member to fulfill the capstone degree requirement.

3. Submit a copy of your project report to mdsprogram@umich.edu when the course is over.

The projects offered by Multidisciplinary Design Program (MDP) may potentially be suitable for the capstone project. However, they must also be pre-approved by following the process described above. If approved, students will enroll in ENGR 599 for two semesters.