

## MA CAPSTONE PROJECT

### COURSEWORK

Students will complete seven (7) courses.

### FULL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

succinctly define a relevant issue or problem in the multi-disciplinary field of gerontology  
propose a theoretical framework that would enhance the scholarship of the discipline.  
analyze this issue within the context of the gerontology discipline and/or aging-related policy in Canada  
or globally;  
critically review the research literature and theoretical orientations relevant to the topic;  
develop a

persuasive, evidence based argument;  
systematically describe how the review/analysis was conducted;  
synthesize and integrate knowledge about the discipline in a substantive manner identifying gaps in the  
literature;  
propose a research study using SSHRC/CIHR guidelines, including an extended literature review;  
develop an evaluation framework to study the process and/or outcomes of an aging-related program or  
service.

The project should be approximately 60 pages in length and must conform to the format of APA style guide.

#### Supervisory Committee, Evaluation and Approval:

The project is a mentored preparation of a scholarly capstone paper that is successfully presented before a  
faculty committee comprised of the senior supervisor and a second committee member. Typically the second  
committee member is another SFU faculty member, but arrangements can be made to have committee members  
from other universities or from outside of the university, if deemed appropriate by the graduate chair and senior  
supervisor. A project proposal must be presented to the committee before it is fully developed.) normal defence  
is required.





- Identify an appropriate program of funding opportunities offered by major federal research funding agencies, such as Social Science Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), etc.
- Carefully review the relevant grant program guidelines and instructions for developing the proposal.
- Develop an appropriate and sound research plan (quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods).
- Develop a research proposal that fits the particular grant program goals and priorities.
- Develop a budget for the grant proposal according to guidelines.
- Develop any research instruments (e.g., questionnaire, interview guide), as needed.
- In addition to the proposal itself, develop an extended literature review and synthesis in the topic area.

Resource:

<http://www.sfu.ca/ors/writing.html>

<http://med.ubc.ca/research/gad/granting-support/grantsmanship/>

[http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new\\_publication\\_3/%7B7a9c1454de11bd80001cc477ec70%7D.pdf](http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new_publication_3/%7B7a9c1454de11bd80001cc477ec70%7D.pdf)

### C. Evaluation framework proposal of a program for older adults

"Evaluation is to make an explicit judgment about the worth of all or part of a program by collecting evidence to determine if acceptable standards have been met. (Cotter, Andrews, and Werner (1988). Evaluation involves identifying purposes and audiences, creating appropriate designs, and interpreting data about a program, project or policy. There are two principal types of program evaluation: 1) process evaluation to determine program coverage, accountability, and efficiencies; and 2) outcome or impact evaluation to determine whether a program has its desired effect on specific outcomes (Windsor, Clark, Boyd, & Goodman, 2004). Evaluations employ multiple methods in order to assess the degree to which a program is efficient and effective. This involves systematically gathering and analyzing evidence about the processes and impacts of a program. Patton (2002) describes three primary uses of evaluation: a) to judge merit or worth of program (summative evaluation), b) to improve programs (formative evaluation), or c) to generate knowledge. Students may also conduct a meta-evaluation or meta-analysis of completed published evaluations of a similar type of program in order to fulfill this requirement. In this capstone project option, you are expected to develop an evaluation framework to study the process and/or outcomes of an applied program or service. Program evaluation results can allow program leaders to be more effective in improving program, to tune the program for increasing its efficacy, making decisions about the future of programs, and identifying relationships between their activities and the outcomes of their work. The steps to consider for this capstone option may include:

Identify the purpose of the evaluation

A review of pertinent literature (theoretical, conceptual, research oriented)

Identify the various steps in the evaluation plan. These may include: review of program goals, identification of stakeholders, description and rationale for all data collection methods, creation of data collection instruments, data collection, analysis of data, preparation of reports for stakeholders.

Develop an evaluation plan that addresses the primary purpose identified at the outset.

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