Elementary Education Capstone: Modeling Professional Practice
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The Goals of the Capstone Project
1. Demonstrate competency in one aspect of teaching;
2. Demonstrate competency in one theme by using a diverse range of product clusters from the whole program;
3. Reflective product.

TLTE’S Cognitive Map: Themes
TLTE has defined nine themes that reflect its values, mission and goals. These serve as the foundation for all the work done in the department. For example:
- Teaching Subject Matter
- Theories of Learning
- Growing Professional Knowledge

Items in Capstone Rubric
- Statement of competency;
- Diverse products/evidence:
  1) Student teaching; 2) Methods courses; 3) Practicum experiences; 4) Other education courses; 5) Any other courses; 6) Outside experiences
- Synthesis—what are common aspects, what are unique aspects, how does the evidence support my claim;
- Reflection: 1) What did I learn; 2) How do I identify what is still left to learn

Format of Capstone Project
- In person presentation—NOT a paper
- Poster (one piece/Power-point/Tri-fold)
- Computer/Mobile device
- Samples of work and reflections
- Be ready to discuss your work and answer questions from faculty and students

Relexive Cycle for Faculty

Method of Analysis

- Descriptive Analysis
- Inter-rater agreement
- Factor Analysis
- Internal Consistency

Findings

Figure 1: Frequency By Themes

Figure 2: Capstone Project Total Score

Figure 3: Capstone Score By Semester

Table 1: Inter-rater agreement by items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Kappa Coefficient</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>N of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competency Statement</td>
<td>.54*</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>.61*</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td>.61*</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection</td>
<td>.62*</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization of Oral Presentation</td>
<td>.54*</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Aids</td>
<td>.53*</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Inter-rater agreement by semester
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Kappa Coefficient</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>N of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring11</td>
<td>.13*</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall11</td>
<td>.42*</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring12</td>
<td>.21*</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring13</td>
<td>.78*</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall13</td>
<td>.56*</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Factor Analysis and Reliabilities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Factor 1</th>
<th>Factor 2</th>
<th>Communality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>.953</td>
<td>.042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection</td>
<td>.942</td>
<td>.002</td>
<td>.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td>.897</td>
<td>.064</td>
<td>.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization of Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>.618</td>
<td>.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Aids</td>
<td>.592</td>
<td>.090</td>
<td>.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency Statement</td>
<td>.100</td>
<td>.354</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of Variance: 46.643%; 11.422%; 58.065%
Total Variance: 9.324; 5.775; 11.822
Factor Internal Consistency: 0.911; 0.519

Note: χ² = 3.00, df=4, p=.42. Alpha for whole scale is .775.

Results
- Not all themes show up, evidence that students avoid some difficult themes.
- Better guidance from faculty results in better outcomes
- Reliability and validity are acceptable
- Scores represent two factors: presentation, content
- Faculty engagement is in real time and reduces the need to report and spur discussions about student outcomes
- Faculty has gained a sense of student progress through the program
- Most students report learning and satisfaction from the experience
- Greater faculty engagement with program and not just courses taught

Program Learning
Changes made as a result of Capstone:
- Integrating presentation into existing course assignments
- More attention to foundational thinking throughout coursework
- Increase faculty understanding of capstone and PD in scoring