**Wurzweiler School of Social Work**

**Yeshiva University**

**INFORMATION ON CAPSTONE THESIS & CAPSTONE SEMINAR**

**2018**

**CAPSTONE SEMINAR**

Every school of social work is required by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to have a Capstone project which offers students an opportunity to demonstrate mastery over course content and CSWE-established competencies and practice behaviors. All WSSW students are offered an option of either taking the Integrative Seminar class or completing a Master's Thesis (Thesis) as their capstone project.

The capstone seminar is a one-semester course for graduating students. It is an opportunity for students to integrate their learning and demonstrate their ability to apply social work knowledge, skills, and values through an in-depth case analysis. The course highlights and reviews key content in the MSW curricula.

**MASTER’S INTEGRATIVE THESIS**

The Integrative Thesis is written during the student's final semester. It is the expounding of an idea, or set of ideas, encountered during the student's education for professional practice. Researching and writing the Thesis is an opportunity to engage oneself in scholarly exploration; it is not merely an opportunity to describe a situation or recite experience. The Thesis is written under the guidance of a faculty mentor, who may be the student's academic advisor. The Thesis is meant to be an integral part of the educational experience.

Social work education requires that each student experience a growth in awareness and understanding of self. To this end, the Thesis should be preceded by the writer's exploration of his/her motivation towards, feelings about, and practice of, social work. It should be an opportunity to integrate all aspects of the student's total experience including the acquisition of knowledge, the field practice, and the development of the professional self. The Integrative Thesis requirement provides an experience of crucial importance. The student must struggle with the necessity of writing, enunciating and expanding on a set of ideas. He/she contends with the problem of validating the ideas with evidence and logic as well as with inner conviction, thus, the student will move towards a new synthesis of reason and emotion. It requires that the data be accurate, the logic cogent and the form in accordance with scholarly standards.

THESIS MATERIALS INCLUDE

1. Outline
2. Suggested Deadlines
3. Formatting