**IT599 Capstone Project Specifications**

You will pick an IT related project to demonstrate the skills you learned in the MSIT program. This will be called your capstone project and you will work on it throughout this course. The project will start in Unit 1 and end in Unit 6. There will also be a Unit 6 seminar.

**Your Role in the Project**

You will pick one of two roles as you work through your capstone project. Your roll will be selected in Unit 1. You can be the IT Project Manager of the IT Project or the IT Specialist. For the IT Specialist, this can be a specialist in your specialization area and/or in the area of IT that interests you. For example, if Information Security and Information Assurance is your specialization, you may take the role of a “Cyber Security Analyst”. If IT Project Management is your specialization area, then you would pick the role of IT Project Manager. In summary, you will define your role. You will not be allowed to change your role after defining it in Unit 1.

**What Tasks Will You Do to Fulfill the Capstone Requirements?**

All Students

 You will create a project proposal (Unit 1) and an IT project plan (Unit 2).

IT Project Managers

 You will go through the entire project management life cycle in a condensed timeframe. This includes monitoring the project to stay within scope, schedule, and costs ($250,000 budget) as to result in delivering a quality product/service. You will demonstrate this by having status meetings, creating status reports, handling unplanned event(s) and closing out the project. This will all be demonstrated in Units 3-5. Unit 6 will be your post project presentation that includes audio narration. Your audience will be the stakeholders.

IT Specialists

 You will implement the tasks as outlined in the project plan that was delivered in Unit 2. The project plan should be designed such that there is at least one milestone for unit 3, one for unit 4 and one for unit 5 as you will need to complete (showing evidence) the milestone in each unit, respectively. So, it is important to plan the scope of your project accordingly. Unit 6 will be your post project presentation that includes audio narration. Your audience will be the stakeholders.

**IT Project Proposal**

All Students:

You will first prepare an IT-related project proposal (unit 1) for approval by your instructor. The submitted proposal should reflect one of the IT-related specialization (IT project management, business intelligence and analytics, or information security and assurance) or an IT area of interest to you. This could be networking, database design, infrastructure, software development or a general IT related interest.

Included in the proposal should be a statement of purpose or need, an overview of the proposed project, key milestones, a high-level budgetary estimate, benefits, return-on-investment (ROI) calculation, and key stakeholders.

The proposal may reflect a real IT project, as assigned within your place of employment or elsewhere (non-profit organization), a textbook-based case study, scholarly journal case study or a hypothetical project, at the student’s discretion.

**IT Project Plan**

You will design a comprehensive IT Project Plan in Unit 2 that will include a schedule created in MS Project among other things (see Unit 2 assignment instructions for more details).

IT Project Managers

Your project will have a budget of $250,000 (labor, hardware, software, etc.), have key milestones with supporting tasks (5 first-level tasks / 20 second-level tasks / 10 third-level tasks) in MS Project and at least three stakeholders.

IT Specialists

 Your project will have a budget defined by you, will have at least three key milestones (unit 3, unit 4 and unit 5) with supporting tasks that define the project in its entirety. In the IT Specialist role you will have to complete each of the milestones as defined in the project plan and show evidence of mastery in the subject matter.