

## MSA CAPSTONE QUICK START CHECKLIST

### Topic

- Determine a topic area related to your program and career
  - Identify and explore 1-3 issues, then choose one!
- Read related scholar and practitioner literature, about 18-24 articles

### Problem

- Is there a part of this problem you might be able to address?
- Is there a unique population or circumstance to investigate?

### Questions

- Develop a working hypothesis (thesis)
  - If, Then, Therefore
- What questions might be investigated, responded to, and effect the population or circumstance?
- Recommendation - 2-4 research questions, note others in your limitations

### Significance

- Who or what circumstance might benefit from investigating the research questions?
- What influence might this investigation have for the scholarly or practitioner community?

### Argument

- Discuss the general context of the research problem
  - Brief history and background, 1-2 paragraphs
- Discuss the more specific context of the research problem
  - Make the problem more local, timely, relevant

### Statement of the Problem

- Discuss in 1-2 paragraphs the problem
- Research problems are often too large or complex for a semester long research problem, Specify what aspect of the research problem your study will address
- Finish with the working hypothesis

### Objective

- What do you plan to deliver as a product of this research project?
  - Model, plan, recommendations, etcetera

### Research Method

- What is your philosophical stance?
  - See Creswell (2014) or Merriam & Tisdell (2015)
- What data collection method will you use?
  - Why is it appropriate?
- What procedure (steps) will you follow?

### Data Analysis

- What method will you use to analyze the results or findings?
  - Why is it appropriate?
- What procedure (steps) will you follow?