

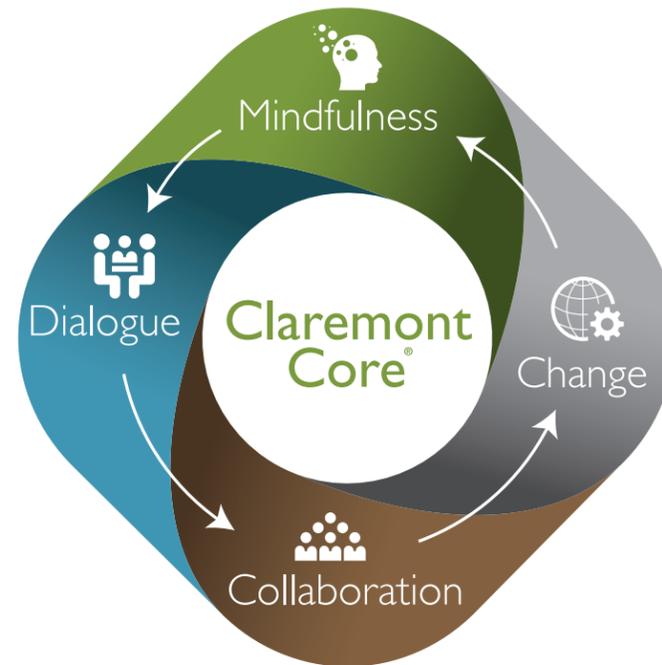
Capstone Action Project Roadmap

PURPOSE:

The Capstone Action Project requires students to apply core skills of mindfulness, dialogue, collaboration, and change as part of an action research project that addresses a problem relevant to their program of study (ethical leadership, interfaith action, or social impact). Students will carry out this project in a setting of their choice, per approval by the program Dean.

PROCESS:

Use CLU's core skills throughout all five terms to complete your project in 15 months as shown below.



PRINCIPLES:

- ✓ Be an expert facilitator for positive change, not the expert on a specific problem.
- ✓ Work with a team of people to identify and understand a problem, and then bring about measurable change.
- ✓ Be an ethical and participative action researcher who works WITH stakeholders, not ON them.
- ✓ Study yourself as a change leader as well as strive to improve a specific problem in your specific community.

Mindfulness (Term 1)

- Identify the issues you really care about.
- Identify where there is a gap between your personal values and what is going on in the chosen setting for your project.
- Continue using mindfulness tools throughout your project to reflect on your work and practice compassion for self and others who may be directly and indirectly affected by the issue you want to address (the "stakeholders").

Collaboration (Term 3)

- Officially form your collaborative working group.
- Discuss with your collaborative stakeholder group what you can do together to address the problem you've identified.
- Discuss how can you measure your impact on the problem. Surveys? Interviews? Journaling? Quantitative data?
- Return to mindfulness and dialogue practices to revise the project as needed.

Capstone Class (Term 5)

- Implement the action plan developed by you and your collaborative stakeholder group.
- Measure the effects of your project: what changes occurred?
- Record what you and your stakeholders accomplished so others could implement a similar project. Record what you learned, would do differently, and, if you were to continue the action project, what would be the next steps.

Dialogue (Term 2)

- Identify and initiate dialogues with stakeholders. How do they understand the issue? What resources do they already have that could promote positive change? How might you start by building on what's already working? Which individuals from stakeholder groups are willing to assist you with your project and in what ways?
- Learn from other researchers and practitioners. What are the best practices for addressing this topic? What has been tried before that you could apply here?
- Return to mindfulness cycle and revise project as needed.

Change (Term 4)

- Compile resources from previous terms, and synthesize them to write chapters 1-3 of your capstone paper as a project proposal. Include your values and perceived problem, how others have addressed similar concerns, your stakeholder's goals, how you will achieve those goals, and how you will measure success.
- Return to mindfulness, dialogue, and collaboration practices to revise the project as needed.