

Master of Information and Telecommunication Systems

J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communication Technologies

Professional Project Guidelines

Students may choose to complete a professional project as a culminating experience in the MITS program. To do a professional project, students apply the expertise and knowledge they have developed from their MITS coursework to evaluating an issue or solving a specific problem. While a thesis involves the advancement of a new idea as the result of significant original research, a professional project is more applied, or hands on. A professional project involves the development of a practical “deliverable” that will solve a particular problem or address a specific issue.

Examples of possible projects include:

- Building a tool or a prototype
- Creating, and demonstrating, a simulation
- Creating a handbook for a process (such as a handbook for implementing a new system or a new technology or a new process)
- Creating a set of best practices for a process
- Writing a report that evaluates potential options for solving a problem and recommends one of the options as best suited to solve that problem
- Conducting a project for a governmental, commercial, or non-profit entity

Specific professional projects that have been done for the MITS degree include the creation of a handbook for implementing IT in the health care environment, building a satellite simulation project, writing a handbook for a VoIP implementation, developing a telecom GIS for Athens County Government.

Professional projects do not require original research, but they should demonstrate rigor in design, methodology and execution. They should also demonstrate that the student has a grasp of the important literature and research regarding the project.

Professional projects often result from problems or issues that the student has encountered in the workplace. They may also result from a faculty member’s interest in the issue or problem. To do a professional project, the student must identify a committee of three faculty members, one of whom serves as the director of the project and chair of the committee. At least two of the committee members must be from the School of Emerging Communication Technologies.

The student must submit a formal proposal (maximum of five pages, double-spaced) that includes: the purpose of the project, its significance, its relationship to the student’s program of study, and the time frame to complete the project. The student’s committee approves the proposal by signing Gradform 4b (Report on the Professional Project Proposal); Gradform 4b must be turned in to the School Office. The student’s committee approves the final project by signing Gradform 5 (Report on the Professional Project, or Research Paper, or Readings Option); this form is submitted to the College Office.

The student should register for ITS 6945, Professional Project, in the semester he or she begins the project. Four (4) hours of ITS 6945 are required for graduation for those students electing to do a project as a culminating experience. Grades of PR will be filed for ITS 6945 until the project is completed, at which time a grade of CR will be given. No letter grade will be assigned to ITS 6945 hours. Students must file a copy of the completed project with the School Office.