INTEGRATING RESEARCH, FIELD EXPERIENCE AND A SENIOR THESIS FOR SENIOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS
Current Model in Progress: Psychology Senior Series at St. Edward’s University, Austin TX

- 5 Fulltime faculty members teaching Research and Field Experience in Psychology [4359]
  - RFE = Combination of Community Interns and Research Assistants this fall
  - Students identifying social issues within RFE to explore for Capstone in the spring
- Same 5 faculty teach Capstone to same RFE students [CAPS] when previously taught by gen ed faculty
  - Faculty have expertise in psychology to aid students
  - Students write about social issue they have experienced
  - Paper written in APA style
- Students end their college career with a 1 year in depth experience with a faculty member, topic and are more ready for employment and/or grad school

<table>
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<tr>
<th>POSITIVES OF THE MODEL</th>
<th>DRAWBACKS OF THE MODEL</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
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<td>1 less course to teach, schedule, register for, manage</td>
<td>*Advising confusion -- students on ‘old plan’ trying to get out of class</td>
<td>Conscientious advising with ‘older’ plan students, being sure to explain how can reap benefits of both old and new plans</td>
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<td>Increased interest in research by students</td>
<td>*Students are confused re lit review required in 4359</td>
<td>Build in more preparatory steps in the curriculum and in 4359 to insure more prepared for Lit Review</td>
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<td>*Collegiality and sharing amongst faculty even though sections are different</td>
<td>Faculty anxious re: teaching CAPS</td>
<td>RFE/CAPS instructor blog to share tips with each other re 4359 and CAPS</td>
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<td>Students VERY involved in hands on research</td>
<td>Coordination of enough research activity with the number of students who are interested</td>
<td>Possible Advanced RFE to be offered during SP10 to be taken concurrently with CAPS</td>
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  - Ownership
  - Presentation proposals
  - 4 of 6 RAs want to publish

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