Creative Component Guidelines

The Creative Component is an option for the traditional MS degree only upon approval by the student's graduate committee. In that context, a creative component is a scholarly product that the student creates as an alternative to a thesis or report. Examples include films, software, curricula, designs, books and journal articles. As these examples suggest, MS Creative Components are not necessarily in text form; however, written descriptions are required to document the student's work and judge its scholarly value. Students who wish to complete a Creative Component in lieu of a thesis or research report should contact the ESGP department for more information.

The Creative Component for the Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree is specifically tied to the internship experience; thus, it is industry-focused and consists of a written document which demonstrates the student’s ability to apply environmental science principles in an actual decision-making situation. The Creative Component for the PSM involves the identification of an environmental problem and the presentation of well-researched solutions. The student develops a Creative Component Proposal and submits to their Advisory Committee for approval in advance of their internship semester. Upon completion of the internship, the student presents the Creative Component to their Advisory Committee in both written and oral forms and completes the Creative Component Verification Form.

The following are general guidelines for the preparation of the written report. Students should seek additional details on formatting, content, and evaluation criteria from their advisor.

Format & Style

The Creative Component report is a graduate-level professional document, written in the third person narrative voice, and is expected to use standard English, including accurate spelling and grammar. Students are strongly urged to use the free services available through the OSU Writing Center and OSU-Tulsa Tutoring Services for assistance with the writing process.

The paper's style should adhere to APA (American Psychological Association, most recent edition) format. The anticipated length is 20-30 pages (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font with a one-inch margins on all sides), excluding appendices.

Organization & Content of the Creative Component Description

Title Page

Abstract

A brief summary (no more than one page) of the report organization, problem addressed, solution selected, and assessment of solution success.

Acknowledgments (optional)

Table of Contents

List of Tables (if any)

List of Figures (if any)

Chapter 1: Description of the Environmental Problem

- Explain the reason why this report was selected.
- Define and explain the environmental problem that was solved.
- State the importance of the problem.
- Explain why solving this problem is important to the organization and to the larger community.
- List the objectives of the report.
- Describe the general approach used in solving the problem.
- Explain the major outcomes that were to be achieved in the report.
Chapter 2: Description of the Report Arrangement, Methodologies, and Tasks
- Describe the data collection and analysis methodologies that were used in analyzing the problem, identifying and screening potential solutions, evaluating solution candidates, selecting the best solution, and implementing the solution.
- Describe the tasks performed during the report, with associated timelines.

Chapter 3: Presentation and Discussion of the Solution to the Problem
- The presentation of results includes the products of the investigation, analysis, evaluation, or other methods used to solve the problem.
- The text may be augmented with various graphics, including tables, charts, graphs, drawings, photographs, plans, protocols, computer software, etc. The student should consult their advisor on the level of detail that should be included in the report.

Chapter 4: Findings and Conclusions
- Findings are discussions that interpret the results and apply them to solving the problem; conclusions are the student’s discussion about whether the problem was in fact solved.
- This section should defend and justify the solution selected and include an assessment of the solution’s success.

Appendices (if any)
- Manuals, procedures, etc.