

**Student Information Literacy Learning Outcomes  
Assessment Report  
PTMA 4990 – Professional Studies Capstone Course  
Spring 2013**

During spring 2013, I was embedded in PTMA 4990, the Professional Studies Capstone Course. This is an online course offered through the Ft. Campbell campus. The assessment period was Spring II, and focused on one learning outcome:

After reviewing the library resources content and/or consulting with the embedded librarian via the course discussion board [c], a student in PTMA 4990 [a] demonstrates his/her ability to accomplish a specific purpose by formatting all of the sources [d] included in the research paper's References page in APA style[b].

I was a presence in the course D2L shell. Instruction consisted of a short video clip (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEw3mgWUNLE>) in which I emphasized the "Professional Studies Research Guide" (<http://libguides.apsu.edu/professional>) I created that provides an overview of library databases and where to find information on APA style. I was also available via a "library issues" discussion board and e-mail. There were 20 students enrolled in the course. Throughout the semester, there were 72 postings to and from myself and the students on the discussion board. I corresponded via e-mail with three students on several occasions, as well as conducting face-to-face research consultations with two students. In addition, the course instructor included her own information on evaluating online resources in the library section of the course Content tab.

The learning outcome was measured based on my review of the References page(s) of the final research papers submitted by students for the course in which they were to identify a current issue affecting organizational leaders / managers and address possible solutions to this particular issue. The students were expected to use a variety of sources including primary, secondary, and tertiary. Of the twenty students enrolled in the course, eighteen of them submitted final papers. In reviewing the References page(s) for those eighteen papers, there were none submitted in which all of the sources were correctly cited in APA style. There were a variety of different issues to be addressed, including formatting (ex. References not typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, sources not alphabetized by author), citation errors (ex. bibliographic elements missing or in the wrong order), and use of a style guide not designated by the course instructor (most commonly MLA). The submittals of those students who communicated with me more often were among those with the fewest errors.

I expected a higher number of Reference pages to have been submitted with zero or very few errors, considering this is a capstone course and students should be familiar with APA style from other classes. It is important that students be able to accomplish a specific purpose following a set example in any coursework or any position in the workforce. I considered my discussion of APA style to be just a "refresher" for these students, which is clearly not adequate. For future sessions, I will plan to create and embed another short video clip focusing solely on formatting and citing sources in APA style.

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the Department of Professional Studies