What is the Capstone requirement for the MSTM program? Students have the option of selecting one of three capstone requirements towards the end of their MSTM program: Plan A (M.S. Thesis), Plan B (Comprehensive Exam), Plan C (Applied Research Project). The capstone requirement is intended to be a synthesis of all that you learned in your MSTM studies.

Who selects Plan A (M.S. Thesis – TM599)? Generally, full-time students would select this option because it requires a lot of work (and time) to complete, which part-time working professional students typically do not have. An M.S. Thesis is typically 75-100 pages. You would work with a faculty research advisor to help define the research topic and guide you through the process.

Who selects Plan B (Comprehensive Exam)? Generally, part-time working professional students. Students who elect to take the comprehensive exam must take one additional 3-credit course (elective) in their Plan of Study (for a total of 33 credits, minimum to graduate).

Who selects Plan C (Applied Research Project – TM594/TM595)? Generally, part-time working professional students who want a more full or complete learning experience by conducting research in a subject of interest and writing a research paper. A research paper is typically 30-50 pages. You would work with a faculty research advisor to help define the research topic and guide you through the process.

What is the Comprehensive Exam? It is a take-home written exam. Its focus is on how you have applied (if you work for a living), or plan to apply (if you are not employed), what you learned in the MSTM program to your professional work. It consists of three parts: Part 1 asks you to describe two things. Part 2 asks you to describe three things. Part 3 consists of four questions related to the MSTM program learning outcomes. All parts are written in essay form, allowing you to demonstrate your abilities to write in full sentences and paragraphs, and with proper grammar and punctuation.

When can I take the Comprehensive Exam? After you have COMPLETED 24-27 credits. You must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

When is the Comprehensive Exam Administered? Three times a year, in the Fall semester (November), once in the Spring semester (March), and once in the Summer (May-June).

How is the Comprehensive Exam graded? It is graded pass or fail.

When will I be notified if I passed or failed? You will be notified within one week.

How should I prepare for the Comprehensive Exam? One method would be to spend 4 or 5 days reviewing the textbook, course notes, reading assignments, tests, projects, etc., from each course you have taken, and reflect back on how you have applied what you learned in the MSTM program.

What forms do I need to fill out to take the Comprehensive Exam? You need to fill out an application form by 1 October (fall semester) or 15 February (spring semester): https://goo.gl/KbkSaQ.

Who do I submit the Comprehensive Exam form to? Submit the form via e-mail to gradstudies@ccsu.edu and copy emiliani@ccsu.edu.

Is there a fee to take the Comprehensive Exam? No. But there is a fee if you take the exam during a semester in which you are not registered to take any academic courses.

NOTE: The process for completing Plan A (M.S. Thesis) or Plan C (Applied Research Project) is more elaborate. See the Graduate Studies Handbook (https://goo.gl/UfE6JR) and talk to your academic advisor for more details. The course TM594 (Research Methods in Technology Management) walks students through the process and prepares them for completing TM595.