

## Differences between the Practicum Capstone and an Internship

*Often the terms Practicum and Internship are used interchangeably. It is important to understand the differences between the two to ensure you are meeting the necessary degree requirements for your Master's Capstone in RBE.*

### Practicum (RBE 596)

- ✓ Meets the requirement for the Master's Capstone
- ✓ Is taken for **3** credit hours
- ✓ Is for a letter grade
  
- ✓ Requires approval from faculty advisor and RBE Graduate Coordinator **prior** to registering
- ✓ Requires student to register with the Office of Graduate Studies
- ✓ Requires a well-defined project that lays out the problem statement and description
- ✓ Requires substantial written report that demonstrates at a capstone experience level answering the following:
  - What problem did you solve?
  - How did you solve the problem?
  - How did you demonstrate your solution?
- ✓ Requires an oral public presentation
- ✓ Requires an RBE affiliated faculty advisor, secondary advisor, and on-site liaison as members of the capstone committee
- ✓ Requires meeting with the RBE faculty advisor on a continual basis
- ✗ Cannot be taken in the same term as an Internship
- ✓ Successfully completed a minimum of 15 credit hours (RBE core) prior to taking
- ✓ Not subject to NDA

### Internship (RBE 5900)

- ✗ Does **NOT** meet the requirement for the Master's Capstone
- ✓ Is taken for **0-1** credit hours
- ✓ 0 Credit is evaluated as Pass/Fail and 1 Credit is for letter grade
- ✓ Requires approval from faculty advisor and RBE Graduate Coordinator **prior** to registering
- ✓ Requires student to register with the Office of Graduate Studies
- ✓ Requires a defined scope of work
  
- ✓ Requires a 2 – 3 page report outlining the following:
  - What did you do?
  - What did you learn?
  - How did you apply the skills you learned at WPI to your internship?
  
- ✗ Does not require a public presentation
- ✓ Requires an RBE affiliated faculty advisor
- ✗ Does not require a committee
  
- ✓ Requires proof of completion from internship supervisor
- ✗ Cannot be taken in the same term as a Practicum
- ✓ Successfully completed 15 credit hours (RBE core) prior to taking

***You must be registered with the Office of Graduate Studies before starting a Practicum or Internship.***

***For questions, please contact [rbe-gpc@wpi.edu](mailto:rbe-gpc@wpi.edu)***