

MENV Capstone Project

Fall 2022



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MENV Specializations



ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL
RESOURCE POLICY



RENEWABLE & SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY



URBAN RESILIENCE &
SUSTAINABILITY



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE
OUTDOOR INDUSTRY



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What is an MENV Capstone Project?



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Goals of the Capstone Project

1. To prepare students to work on real world, long term, collaborative projects
2. To help students grow and strengthen their professional networks
3. To provide client organizations with valuable products and services



Capstone Project Criteria

1. Not a traditional internship or research thesis
2. Graduate-level rigor and analysis
3. Professional relevance
4. Professional and academic deliverables
5. Discreet project to be completed by the end of November



2022 Capstone Partners

Boulder Watershed Collective

**City of Boulder/Urban Drawdown
Initiative**

Colorado Energy Office

Colorado Outdoors

Conservation Lands Fund

Danone

Dharma's Garden

E Source

EarthHero

East Denver Food Hub

Farm Collaborative

Fetzer Vineyards

Intelex

Lacy Consulting Services

Leave No Trace

Metro DNA/The Nature Conservancy

National Renewable Energy Lab

Northwest CO Cultural Heritage Program

Nourish Colorado

One Energy

Outside, Inc.

Solidaridad

United States Forest Service

Vail Resorts

Western Resource Advocates



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2022/23 Capstone Project Timeline

July 1: Partner recruitment begins

August 1: MENV begins accepting project proposals

August 22: First day of fall semester (CIL 1)

August 26: Prospective partner info session 1

September 23: Prospective partner info session 2

October 28: Deadline for project proposals

November 18: 2022 Capstone Symposium

December 2: Partner finalists notified

December 9: Students receive proposals /

Last day of fall classes



2022/23 Capstone Project Timeline

January 17: First day of spring semester (CIL 2) /
Partner videos uploaded

January 27: Networking event* (tentative date)

February 3: Students' professional packets due to faculty
review committee

February 17: Final team assignments announced

February 20: Official launch date of Capstone 2022

November 17: 2023 Capstone Symposium



Team assignments

- 1. The ability of the team to meet the qualifications set forth by the partner organization**
- 2. The ability of the team to accomplish the stated goals of the project**
- 3. Individual student goals and preferences**
- 4. The appropriate number of teams/projects**
- 5. The appropriate number of advisors for teams/projects**
- 6. Interdisciplinarity and team diversity when possible**



Three phases of the Capstone

Phase One:
Project Planning & Design
Spring: Feb - May

*Approximately 10 hours per student per week



Three phases of the Capstone

Phase One

Phase Two:
Implementation & Execution
Summer: May - Aug

*Approximately 25-30 hours per student per week



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Three phases of the Capstone

Phase One

Phase Two

Phase Three:
Synthesis, Analysis &
Production
Fall: Aug - Nov

*Approximately 5-10 hours per student per week



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Expectations of students

1. Set clear goals and benchmarks
2. Drive project forward using solutions-oriented approaches
3. Demonstrate professionalism with partners and other project stakeholders
4. Communicate regularly with partners and advisors
5. Work a minimum of 300 hours during summer



Expectations of partners

1. Support the educational objectives of the project
2. Provide a project lead who can contribute meaningfully to the project – an average of 1-2 hours per week
3. Communicate and provide feedback regularly
4. Provide mentoring and professional development opportunities
5. Cover the direct costs of the project



Role of faculty advisors

- 1. Serve as partner's faculty point-of-contact**
- 2. Advise students on the direction of their projects**
- 3. Connect students with other experts as needed**
- 4. Monitor student progress and ensure academic rigor of project**
- 5. Provide substantive feedback to students**



Questions?

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