

## UC Berkeley Master of Engineering Capstone Project Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a Capstone Project?

The Capstone Project is a 9-month experiential course offered by the Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree program at U.C. Berkeley. Projects are facilitated by the Fung Institute for Engineering Leadership within the College of Engineering.

Capstone Projects integrate leadership breadth with technical depth in the innovative engineering leadership curriculum. Capstone Projects address present-day industry challenges and have solid engineering content.

### 2. Who is eligible to propose Capstone Projects?

Any company or nonprofit organization with a technology focus is eligible to propose Capstone Projects.

Capstone sponsors will also be required to provide the following:

- A point person from your organization to advise the capstone team on a regular basis and throughout the whole duration of the project
- All necessary tools, software, and/or data necessary to do the project in a timely manner.
- Realistic and achievable deliverables that fit into a 9-month timeframe
- Clear objectives for the technical challenges for the project

### 3. What is University-Industry Collaborative (open model)?

University-Industry Collaborative (open model) is a public collaboration between the industry partner and the university. In this model, a project uses mostly university resources, intellectual property, and laboratory equipment.

### 4. What is Virtual Internship (closed model)?

Virtual Internship (closed model) happens when a project uses exclusively (or almost entirely) corporate resources and intellectual property versus university resources and intellectual property. This is a private model with a faculty liaison. At the discretion of the industry sponsor, students may work from the company's physical location or remotely but the industry point person will be expected to communicate with the team on a regular basis.

### 5. What are the benefits of participation for a company?

A team of three to four dedicated Berkeley engineering graduate students will work for 9 months (August 2015 – May 2016) on a present day industry challenge delineated by the project proposal.

**6. Is there a fee for participation?**

There is no fee for industry partners to participate in the capstone program for year 2015-2016.

**7. What are the intellectual property (IP) considerations?**

Capstone Intellectual Property (IP) Guidelines are available upon request. In addition, at the company's request, students may sign a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

**8. How much time is expected from my company in working with Capstone Project students?**

The time commitment may vary. The most successful project teams met with industry advisor(s) and communicated frequently by emails. Industry advisors made themselves available as a resource for guidance and information. Exact time commitments will be established and agreed upon with the students and faculty at the beginning of the project.

**9. What are the incentives for students to create value for a company in the form of Capstone Projects?**

The Capstone Project is a 5-unit course toward the student graduation requirement for the UC Berkeley Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree. 2 units are granted in the fall semester, and 3 units are granted in the spring semester.

**10. How much work can be expected from the students over the course of the academic year?**

Each student on the team is expected to spend approximately 6 hours a week on the project in the fall and 9 hours a week in the spring semester.

**11. What are the roles of the industry advisor and faculty advisor?**

In a University-Industry Collaborative (open model), faculty advisors take the lead in driving project direction. Industry advisors provide data, lab equipment, and mentorship as needed.

In a Virtual Internship (closed model), industry advisors take the lead in driving project direction. At a minimum, industry advisors provide students with a real-world business and technical challenge to help them apply what they are learning in the classroom: technology, communication, business and leadership skills.

For both models, specific commitments will be established and agreed upon among students, faculty, and industry advisor(s) at the beginning of each project.

**12. What is the composition of the student team that will work on my Capstone Project?**

Team size can range from 3 to 5 students per team, chosen from seven engineering

departments (see #16).

**13. Where will the students work?**

Student teams have office and conference room space available for work in Downtown Berkeley, conveniently located immediately next to the Downtown Berkeley BART Station. Students also often work in university laboratories, libraries, and the Fung Institute offices in Blum Hall East. For Virtual Internships, students may also work at the company's physical location.

**14. How will students be reimbursed for travel?**

Industry partners are encouraged to reimburse students, at their discretion, for expenses directly related to the project. The university does not reimburse students for travel expenses.

**15. Who will pay for the laboratory equipment and the software that students need in order to work on the Capstone Projects?**

In a Virtual Internship, industry sponsors should expect to provide all of the necessary resources (laboratory equipment and software) required for the students to work on the Capstone Project.

In a University-Industry Collaborative, many engineering departments at UC Berkeley have much of the laboratory equipment and software needed for student projects; please check with the faculty advisor. If any additional laboratory equipment or software is required, the industry advisor provides it.

**16. Which engineering departments are represented?**

Bioengineering (BIOE)  
Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE)  
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (EECS)  
Industrial Engineering & Operations Research (IEOR)  
Materials Science & Engineering (MSE)  
Mechanical Engineering (ME)  
Nuclear Engineering (NE)

## 17. What are the important dates and deadlines associated with Capstone Projects?

Year	Dates	Activity
2015	February	<b>Capstone Project Call for Proposals</b>
	<b>By March 2</b>	Submit a one-sentence description of your project idea.
	<b>By May 1</b>	<b>Full Project Proposals due</b> Please use the proposal form supplied.
	<b>By June 1</b>	<b>Proposal Review</b> – screening for skill set and objective fit with incoming M.Eng. class.
	<b>July-August</b>	<b>Student Project Exploration</b> Industry advisors should be available for questions during this time.
	<b>August 17-25</b>	<b>Capstone Info Sessions</b> Industry advisors present a project pitch and answer questions at an on-campus info session.
	<b>August 21-September 1</b>	<b>Project Application and Resume Review Process.</b> Industry advisors will review resumes and cover letters of students who apply to their projects, and make offers.
	<b>September 1-11</b>	<b>Capstone Final Match:</b> Teams are finalized with Notification no later than Sept 11
	<b>Early December</b>	<b>Capstone Preview Expo</b>
2015	<b>Early May</b>	<b>Capstone Final Presentation Showcase</b>
	<b>May 1-15</b>	<b>Deliverables</b> to Industry & Faculty Advisors

### Questions?

Donald Wroblewski, Ph.D., P.E.  
Director of Capstone Experience  
220 Blum Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
510-664-4374  
dewroblewski@berkeley.edu

Beth Hoch Leven  
Director of Academic Affairs  
230A Blum Hall, MC 5580  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
510-664-4587  
hoch@berkeley.edu

Fung Institute for Engineering  
Leadership  
College of Engineering  
University of California, Berkeley