ESRM Senior Capstone Information

School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

ESRM majors complete a 10 credit Senior Capstone during their final year of study, including a presentation of the capstone project. There are three ways to meet this requirement:

Restoration Ecology Capstone (ESRM 462, ESRM 463 and ESRM 464):

A three-course year-long capstone sequence in restoration ecology that begins in autumn. ESRM 462: Students review and assess project plans and installations. Class meets with members of previous capstone classes to review their projects. ESRM 463: Student teams prepare proposals in response to requests for proposals (RFPs) from actual community clients and prepare restoration plans. ESRM 464: Teams implement and install restoration plans developed in ESRM 463. This may include supervision of volunteers, preparing management guidelines for the client, and conducting a training class for client use.

Senior Project (ESRM 494 and 495):

Individual or team-based study of an environmental science and resource management problem under direction of faculty member(s). Requires selection and scoping of project topic, proposal, implementation of project activities and/or research, analysis, and final project report and presentation.

Senior Thesis (ESRM 494 and 496):

Individual research on an environmental science and resource management problem under direction of faculty member(s). Students work with a faculty adviser to develop thesis proposal, complete field or laboratory research and analysis, prepare a final thesis document, and deliver a presentation of their thesis work.

ESRM 494/495/496 GUIDELINES (These are not requirements but a suggested guideline)

1. Select a project from the list of suggestions provided by faculty or bring your own research idea to an appropriate faculty member. Meet with the faculty member so that you can prepare the required form together. (Student and Academic Services can help you find faculty if needed). Complete Step 1 (on reverse form), including a detailed description of your intended capstone and faculty approval signature, and indicating whether you are doing Senior Project or Thesis.
2. Return the form to Student and Academic Services to obtain add/faculty codes. A copy of the form will be kept in your student file for tracking purposes.
3. Meet at least weekly with your faculty adviser, discussing your progress on the project. You should expect to work on your project a minimum of 3-4 hours per week per credit unit on average. The Capstone is a total of 10 credits (usually spread over 2 quarters).
4. Written requirements:
   ESRM 494: With guidance from your faculty adviser, write a research proposal. This must be read and approved prior to beginning your research.

ESRM 495/496: Maintain a lab/field notebook detailing what you are learning, experimental protocols, data, etc. At least two weeks prior to the end of the quarter, using an agreed upon format such as for a journal, write your research project including data gathered. For example, the report should include background information, materials/methods/research design, results (both written interpretation and graphs), and conclusions. Your faculty adviser should critique the draft. At the end of each quarter, turn in a final draft of the report as part of your grade.

5. Presentation requirements:
   Prepare and deliver a final public presentation of your project/thesis work, noting the date on your form. Give an oral presentation of your project to your lab/research group (or any relevant small group with your faculty adviser) at the end of each quarter. This should be a practice of your formal presentation. Include background information on the project, a description of your research methods, the data collected, and a summary. You should be able to answer any questions about your project. You are not expected to have a lot of data after one quarter, but after two or three you should have made significant progress. This presentation provides the necessary preparation for the formal presentation. At the final quarter of the Capstone, give an oral presentation to a larger group, either a presentation in SEFS or at the UW Undergraduate Research Symposium in spring quarter. It is advisable to give a practice of this formal presentation as a learning experience prior to this graded one.
6. Turn in your final project/thesis to your faculty adviser for evaluation as per the agreed-upon timelines. Suggested Grading (faculty adviser chooses an appropriate percent):
   Lab notebook – 10%
   Overall research – 30%
   Final draft of proposal or report – 30 to 60%
   Presentation – 0 to 30%.
   Submit one copy of your final project/thesis to Student and Academic Services, along with the finalized and signed copy of the ESRM Senior Capstone Form. Your project/thesis will be kept for the SEFS student reference library.
7. **Other Notes**
   Wildlife Conservation Option students should refer to the thesis guide, "Solving the Mysteries of ESRM 494 and 496."
   Graduate students or postdoctoral fellows can be the immediate adviser but there should be a faculty member as overall adviser, supervisor, and evaluator.
   Foreign study or study abroad is allowed with prior faculty approval

ESRM Senior Capstone Registration Form

School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Step 1: Identify capstone, faculty, and obtain faculty signature

☐ **SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND PROJECT ESRM 494 AND 495**

1st Qtr/Yr:_____ 2nd Qtr/Yr:_____

Short description of work to be graded:_____

_____

_____

☐ **SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND THESIS ESRM 494 AND 496**

1st Qtr/Yr:_____ 2nd Qtr/Yr:_____

Short description of work to be graded:_____

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_____

☐ **RESTORATION ECOLOGY CAPSTONE**

Register for ESRM 462, 463, and 464 for one academic year (10 crs)

1st Qtr/Yr: Autumn /_____ 2nd Qtr/Yr: Winter /_____ 3rd Qtr/Yr: Spring /_____

Student Name:_____ Student Number:_____

Student Signature:_____Date:_____

Faculty Name:_____

Faculty Signature:_____Date:_____

STEP 2: Turn in form and obtain registration code

Return this form to SEFS Student and Academic Services in AND 116/130 to recieve add/faculty codes to register after obtaining a signature. A copy will be kept in your file.

STEP 3: Track progress and completion dates

At the start of the quarter, agree with faculty upon dates to track your progress and final completion.

Progress Date(s):_____Projected Final Completion:_____

STEP 4: Public presentation of Project/Thesis

This can come before or after the final submission of the project/thesis. **Presentation Date:_____**

STEP 5: Project/Thesis submission

Submit a copy of your final project/thesis along with a copy of this form to SEFS Student and Academic Services in AND 116/130. Your project/thesis will be kept for the SEFS student reference library.

Faculty Approval Signature:_____