2015-16 Evans School Capstone Project Requirement

All MPA students must complete a capstone project (CP) that integrates knowledge and skills gained at the Evans School. The majority of students enroll in Capstone Project Seminars and either participate in the Public Service Clinics or bring their own topic.

There are four ways to complete the capstone project requirement:

Public Service Clinics (in a Capstone Project Seminar)
- Apply for public and nonprofit agency-generated topics
- Get matched with a project and student teammates
- Conduct a 3-way meeting with client and CP instructor
- Enroll in a 4-credit Capstone Project Seminar in both Winter and Spring Quarters (8 credits total)

Independent Capstone Project (in a Capstone Project Seminar)
- Generate your own topic (with or without a client), either individually or as a student team
- Enroll in a 4-credit Capstone Project Seminar in both Winter and Spring Quarters (8 credits total)

Deep Dives (Capstone Seminar Classes)
- Take a “deep-dive” class on a particular policy and/or management topic in which a faculty member has expertise (topic descriptions appear on the next page). In the 2015-16 academic year, two "deep-dive" classes will be offered, each in Winter Quarter 2016, one led by Professor Ann Bostrom and one led by Professor Jacob Vigdor.
- Students apply for Deep Dives online. Students in the Environmental Policy Program Option will have priority for Professor Bostrom’s Deep Dive, but are not guaranteed access. Admission to Professor Vigdor’s Deep Dive will be by permission of the instructor.

Certificate Programs
- Complete the International Development Policy and Management Certificate (IDCP), Nonprofit Management Certificate (NMCP), or the College of the Environment’s Environmental Management Certificate. Note: Environmental Policy Program Option Students must fulfill the capstone requirement through the Public Service Clinics, a Deep Dive Seminar, or a Capstone Project Seminar.
- Schedules and credit requirements vary by certificate
SPECIAL SITUATIONS

PCMI students can complete one of the options on the previous page or an independent study capstone project (outside of the Capstone Project Seminars) with a faculty member on a self-generated topic. See the PCMI addendum to the student handbook for more details.

Concurrent degree students can count their master’s thesis in lieu of a capstone project when the thesis has a substantial policy/management component and an Evans School faculty member is on the thesis committee. See the student handbook for more details.

KEY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 13</td>
<td>Public Service Clinic projects available in MyEvans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct. 15</td>
<td>Public Service Clinic Topics Fair, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 19</td>
<td>Deep Dive application deadline, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct. 22</td>
<td>Students notified about Deep Dive status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 26</td>
<td>Public Service Clinic application deadline, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov. 2</td>
<td>Students notified about Public Service Clinic matches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov. 6</td>
<td>Winter Quarter registration begins</td>
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We will notify students via email when the Deep Dive applications are available.

RESOURCES

Student Handbook: http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/student-handbooks
Public Service Clinics: http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/public-service-clinics
Certificate Programs: https://evans.uw.edu/degree-programs/non-degree-and-certificate-programs
Capstone Project Archive: http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/capstone-project-archive
Electronic Version of this Handout: http://evans.uw.edu/myevans/students/degree-and-capstone-project-options
PROFESSOR JACOB VIGDOR’S DEEP DIVE SEMINAR

In 2014, the City of Seattle adopted a minimum wage ordinance that will require some businesses to pay employees $15/hour -- more than twice the Federal minimum -- as soon as 2017. Proponents hail this move as a victory for the working poor. Detractors worry that the new minimum wage will result in fewer jobs and higher consumer prices, possibly harming the intended beneficiaries. The City has commissioned an evaluation from a UW-based team including five Evans School faculty. The team will use state databases to analyze trends in employment, hours worked, and earnings; conduct repeated surveys of local businesses; and send interviewers into the field.

In winter 2016, MPA students will have an opportunity to participate in the analysis of this groundbreaking policy. Students may be assigned to a variety of tasks. We may ask students to embed themselves in immigrant communities to interview business owners and workers. We might send students to collect data from accounting firms that handle payroll for restaurants to better understand trends in tip income (which is often underreported in state databases). We might send students to City Hall to shadow personnel in the new Office of Labor Standards. Students’ work may potentially be incorporated into our team's first official report to the City, which may be delivered as soon as summer 2016.

PROFESSOR ANN BOSTROM’S DEEP DIVE SEMINAR

As public and private sector planners and decision makers across the Pacific Northwest consider whether and how to prepare for climate change, they ask a basic question: when and where could climate change matter across the region? Which will we first notice, increased heat waves, heavier rain events or changes in winter flooding? Shall we first focus on preparing our drinking water, electricity or public health systems? In which locations will climate changes first drive change?

In this deep dive students will tackle specific climate change communications challenges faced by state agencies in Washington. Climate forecasts can be used to guide a variety of state agency activities, including for example assessing infrastructure needs, determining emergency response capacity needs (e.g., floods and storms, droughts and heat waves), and budgeting. In the context of climate change, such forecasts come with considerable uncertainties. Projects in this deep dive will involve working with the UW Climate Impacts Group and state agencies on how best to communicate climate change-related forecasts and uncertainties to meet state agency needs.

Environmental Policy Program Option students, who must complete a capstone project on an environmental topic, will be given priority in the selection process, although they are not guaranteed to get in.
Capstone Project Options

Public Service Clinics
- Review and apply for public and nonprofit agency-generated topics using online posting and selection system (must select three choices).
  - Receive match
  - Accept match

Self-Generated Topic
- Define your own CP with or without a client agency
  - Decline match and apply for an unmatched project or define your own CP
  - Enroll in a Capstone Project Seminar
  - Capstone Project Next Steps Meeting
  - Capstone Project Seminars
    - Meet weekly Winter and every other week Spring Quarter
  - Present projects (optional)
  - Instructor Sign-Off and Submit to CP Archive

Deep Dives
- Apply via online form
  - Receive notification of whether admitted
  - If admitted: confirm intent to enroll and receive add code
  - Meet at least weekly Winter Quarter
  - Student teams evaluate a particular policy and/or management issue
  - Class as a whole develops written report and presentation