

# ESRM Senior Capstone Information

## School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

ESRM majors have the option to complete a 10 credit Senior Capstone during their final year of study, including a poster presentation of the capstone project. If students are in the departmental honors program, wildlife conservation option, or restoration ecology and environmental horticulture option, they **must** complete the capstone project. There are **four** options to complete a Senior Capstone:

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

A three-course yearlong capstone sequence in restoration ecology that begins in autumn.

- Autumn (2 credits) – ESRM 462: Students work in groups to review and assess project plans and installations. Class meets with members of previous capstone classes to review their projects.
- Winter (3 credits) – ESRM 463: Student teams prepare proposals in response to **Requests For Proposals (RFPs)** from actual community clients and prepare restoration plans.
- Spring (5 credits) – 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 their use. Completing the capstone involves preparing and delivering a final public poster presentation at the final Restoration Capstone event in late May/early June.

B) **Senior Project (ESRM 494 and ESRM 495):**

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

C) **Senior Thesis (ESRM 494 and ESRM 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 a thesis proposal, complete field or laboratory research and analysis, and prepare a final thesis document and poster presentation.

D) **Departmental Honors Senior Thesis (ESRM 494 B and ESRM 496 B)**

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

If students decide to complete a senior capstone they **must** fill out the attached ESRM Senior Capstone Registration form indicating which capstone they are completing.

### **ESRM 494/495 and 494/496 GUIDELINES**

1. Select a project from the list of suggestions provided by faculty or discuss your research idea(s) with an appropriate faculty member. Meet with the faculty member to prepare the ESRM Senior Capstone Registration form. (Student and Academic Services can help you find faculty if needed.) Complete all of Step 1 of the form.
2. Return the form to Student and Academic Services in AND 116/130 to obtain add/faculty codes. A copy of the form will be kept in your student file.
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 hours per week per credit unit on average. The Senior Capstone is a total of 10 credits, typically spread over 2 quarters. Winter/Spring quarter is the most common combination, but it can be Summer/Autumn, Autumn/Spring, depending on what you and your faculty adviser decide works best for the project or when the credits fit best into your schedule.

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 and starting ESRM 495 or 496.

**ESRM 495/496:** At least two weeks prior to the end of the quarter write your thesis document (ESRM 496) or research project report (ESRM 495), using an agreed upon format, such as a journal. The report should include background information, materials/methods/research design, data gathered, results (both written interpretation and graphs), and conclusions. Your faculty adviser should critique the draft, and a final report or thesis document needs to be submitted by the end of the quarter for grading.

5. Poster presentation requirements for all capstone options:

Prepare and deliver a final public poster presentation of your project/thesis work. 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. At the final quarter of the Capstone, give a graded poster presentation to a larger group in SEFS or at the UW Undergraduate Research Symposium spring quarter.

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%

Poster presentation – 0 to 30%.

Submit one copy of your final project/thesis to Student and Academic Services. Your project/thesis will be kept for the SEFS student reference library.

### Capstone Funding

For help with capstone project funding, use the [Capstone Award Form](#). ESRM Senior Capstone students are encouraged to apply for Director's Office financial support to defray costs incurred to complete their ESRM capstone. Funds are at three levels: \$50, \$150, or \$250, and are awarded in Autumn, Winter, or Spring quarters. Students MUST be registered for a capstone course (ESRM 494, 495, or 496) during the quarter of the award.

### Printing a Poster for your Capstone Project

- The below are resources on campus that can be used to print posters for your capstone project
  - <http://depts.washington.edu/uwposter/>
  - <https://finance.uw.edu/c2/posters>
  - <http://be.uw.edu/spaces/computing/digital-commons/>
- When submitting a poster at UW, use the budget number **65-6078** and a PI UW NetID of **nord**, in order to pay for the poster using the capstone support fund.
- We have poster boards, easels, and clips in the department.
- The poster boards we supply are 36x48 inches, feel free to print your posters with these dimensions or smaller. However, posters should be no smaller than 32x40 inches
- The Design Help Desk offers **free** advice for UW seeking to improve their visuals for presentation and publication, <http://depts.washington.edu/deshelp/> (limited hours, one day a week)

### Other Notes

- For additional help, you can 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.
- Questions? Email or stop by Student and Academic Services in Anderson 116.

*Keep this page for your reference*

# ESRM Senior Capstone Registration Form

## School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

**STEP 1: Identify capstone, faculty, and obtain faculty signature**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Faculty Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**A) RESTORATION ECOLOGY CAPSTONE**

*(NO FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED)*

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

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr/Yr: Autumn/2cr      2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr/Yr: Winter/3cr      3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr/Yr: Spring/5cr

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**B) SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND PROJECT ESRM 494 AND ESRM 495**

*\*(FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED)*

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_

Short description of work to be graded: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**C) SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND THESIS ESRM 494 AND ESRM 496**

*\*(FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED)*

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_

Short description of work to be graded: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**D) HONORS SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND THESIS ESRM 494B AND ESRM 496B**

*\*(FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED)*

**ADDITIONAL FORM REQUIRED FOR THIS OPTION (SEE BACK OF PAGE)**

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr/Yr: \_\_\_\_\_

Short description of work to be graded: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**STEP 2: Turn in form and obtain registration code**

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

Date EC Given: \_\_\_\_\_ [SEFS USE ONLY]

# UW HONORS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

## School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

For the most current information on UW Honors, please visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors/reqs/>

Students have three options for completing an Honors degree.

- **Departmental Honors** allows students to explore the majors in greater depth by completing upper-level electives, research, or an extended thesis. Departmental Honors also exposes students to a close working relationship with faculty mentors. Admission to Interdisciplinary Honors does not guarantee admission to Departmental Honors. Students must meet a SEFS adviser to discuss the honors admission.
- **Interdisciplinary Honors** students take a majority of their general education requirements in Honors-specific courses, complete experiential learning requirements, maintain a portfolio throughout their participation in this curriculum, and are asked to think intentionally about education, knowledge and interdisciplinary. See the UW Honors program directly for advising on this option.
- **College Honors**, the completion of both Interdisciplinary Honors and Departmental Honors, allows students to experience both Honors general education and the deeper understanding of their chosen focus. Advising will be done jointly by UW Honors and SEFS Advising.

<b><u>Departmental Honors</u> in the <b>ESRM</b> major</b>	<b><u>Departmental Honors</u> in the <b>BSE</b> major</b>
<b>Eligibility:</b> For any student in the ESRM major with a UW cumulative minimum GPA of 3.3 AND a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the ESRM major	<b>Eligibility:</b> For any student in the BSE major with a UW cumulative minimum GPA of 3.3 AND a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the BSE major
<b>Recognition:</b> degree granted “with Honors in [major]”	<b>Recognition:</b> degree granted “with Honors in [major]”
<b>Requirements:</b>  <b><u>Research or Thesis (10 credits):</u></b> ESRM 494, 496 Thesis ( <i>honors section only</i> ) ESRM 462, 463, 464 Research ( <i>honors section only</i> ) ESRM 499 Research ( <i>honors section only</i> ) Topic area: _____ Faculty Advisor signature: _____  <b>OR</b>  <b><u>Ad-Hoc Option (10 credits):</u></b> ESRM coursework: _____ Credits: _____ Quarter: _____ Professor signature: _____  <b>Student Name:</b> _____ <b>Student Number:</b> _____ <b>Anticipated Graduation Quarter:</b> _____	<b>Requirements:</b>  <b><u>Research or Thesis (10 credits):</u></b> BSE 494, 496 Thesis ( <i>honors section only</i> ) BSE 499 Research ( <i>honors section only</i> ) Topic area: _____ Faculty Advisor signature: _____  <b>OR</b>  <b><u>Ad-Hoc Option (10 credits):</u></b> BSE coursework: _____ Credits: _____ Quarter: _____ Professor signature: _____  <b>Student Name:</b> _____ <b>Student Number:</b> _____ <b>Anticipated Graduation Quarter:</b> _____
<b>Advising Notes: DARS updated on _____ by _____</b>	<b>Advising Notes: DARS updated on _____ by _____</b>