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. Students in the honors program, wildlife conservation, or restoration option **must** complete a capstone. If you are unsure whether or not you need to complete a capstone, please see our Capstone Summary Chart.

*Capstone Registration Form is on Page 3

1. **Find a Project**
   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 Capstone Registration form. (Student and Academic Services can help you find faculty if needed.)

2. **Choose Capstone Option**
   a. **Restoration Ecology Capstone: ESRM 462, 463, 464**
      i. **ESRM 462:** Autumn, 2 credits; Groups review and assess project plans and installations. Class meets with members of previous capstone classes to review their projects.
      ii. **ESRM 463:** Winter, 3 credits; Student teams prepare proposals in response to **R**equests **F**or **P**roposals (**RFP**s) from actual community clients and prepare restoration plans.
      iii. **ESRM 464:** Spring, 5 credits; Teams implement restoration plans. This may include supervising volunteers, preparing management guidelines and conducting training for their use. Completion involves a final public poster presentation at the final Restoration Capstone event.
   b. **Senior Project: ESRM 494, 495**
      Individual or team-based study of an environmental science and resource management problem under direction of chosen faculty member(s). Requires selection of project topic, proposal, implementation of project activities and/or research, analysis, and final project report and presentation.
   c. **Senior Thesis: ESRM 494, 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 494B 496B**
      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.

3. **Return Form – page 3**
   Submit the completed form with faculty signature here or to sefsadv@uw.edu to obtain add codes for your chosen course. The add code will remain the same for all capstone courses.

4. **Do the project!**
   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.

5. **Present**
   At the final quarter of the Capstone, prepare and deliver a final public, graded presentation of your 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 from a larger group in SEFS or at the UW Undergraduate Research Symposium.
   *Recent SEFS presentations have been via Zoom, but you can find poster resources below

Resources

- **Capstone Funding:**

  For help with capstone project funding, students may apply for the [Student Research Support Fund](). 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.

- **Written requirements:**

  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.

- **Poster presentation:**
  - 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 Student Research Support Fund.
  - We have 36x48 in. poster boards, easels, and clips in the department.
  - The poster boards we supply are 36x48 inches. Posters should be no smaller than 32x40 inches
    - http://depts.washington.edu/uwposter/
    - https://finance.uw.edu/c2/posters
    - http://be.uw.edu/spaces/computing/digital-commons/
  - 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)

- **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%.

- **Other:**
  - 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 sefsadv@uw.edu 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)
1st Qtr/Yr: Autumn/2cr   2nd Qtr/Yr: Winter/3cr   3rd Qtr/Yr: Spring/5cr

_____

B) SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND PROJECT ESRM 494 AND ESRM 495   ***(FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED)***
1st Qtr/Yr:_____   2nd Qtr/Yr:_____

Short description of work to be graded:_____

_____

_____

_____

C) SENIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL AND THESIS ESRM 494 AND ESRM 496   ***(FACULTY SIGNATURE REQUIRED)***
1st Qtr/Yr:_____   2nd Qtr/Yr:_____

Short description of work to be graded:_____

_____

_____

_____

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

Short description of work to be graded:_____

_____

_____

STEP 2: Turn in form and obtain registration code
Return this form to SEFS Student and Academic Services by submitting this form or emailing sefsadv@uw.edu to receive add codes to register after obtaining a signature.

| Date AC 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.

<u>Departmental Honors</u> in the ESRM major	<u>Departmental Honors</u> in the BSE major
Eligibility: 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	**Eligibility:** 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
Recognition: degree granted "with Honors in [major]"	**Recognition**: degree granted "with Honors in [major]"
Requirements: **Research or Thesis (10 credits):** ESRM 494, 496 Thesis *(honors section only)* ESRM 462, 463, 464 Research *(honors section only)* ESRM 499 Research *(honors section only)* Topic area:_____ Faculty Advisor signature:_____ **OR** **Ad-Hoc Option (10 credits):** ESRM coursework:_____ Credits:_____ Quarter: _____ Professor signature:_____ **Student Name:**_____ Student Number**:**_____ Anticipated Graduation Quarter: _____	Requirements: **Research or Thesis (10 credits):** BSE 494, 496 Thesis *(honors section only)* BSE 499 Research *(honors section only)* Topic area:_____ Faculty Advisor signature:_____ **OR** **Ad-Hoc Option (10 credits):** BSE coursework:_____ Credits:_____ Quarter: _____ Professor signature:_____ **Student Name:**_____ Student Number**:**_____ Anticipated Graduation Quarter: _____
Advising Notes: DARS updated on _____by_____	*Advising Notes: DARS updated on: _____by_____*