

CAPSTONE NEWSLETTER

KEY UPCOMING DATES

WEEK OF MARCH 7-11

Target window for mid-semester project reviews

MAY 5TH

College of Engineering Capstone / Senior Design Expo

445 CONSULTING SERVICES

The name of the Capstone class is CSCI 445, but we've twisted the name to be "445 Consulting Services". The consulting theme aligns well with the three elements of our mission statement:

- Deliver software projects that
 - meet or exceed client expectations
- Grow our skills
 - Enhance NDSU Computer Science's reputation in the industry

We carry the consulting theme into the engagement model that we've established. In the model shown below, students become consultants, sponsors become clients, and instructors become management. We will execute within the framework of the four project phases shown on the right of the slide. And we will focus on two key values in the project: clarity and trust.

2022 PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

In the last newsletter, I described the bidding process that the students use to specify project preferences. That process resulted in all students landing in one of their top three project choices. In fact, over 70% of the students ended up in their top project choice! Since this process also considered preferences for remote vs. in person classroom and project interaction, I am very pleased with the outcome.

Getting this alignment is clearly a win-win. The students are on projects they are excited about, and clients have project members who want to be on their project.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we wrap up the project initiation phase, we are embarking into project execution. Teams will have a backlog in place for Phase 1 Development and will start working down that list of items. The learning and progress that happens in the next few weeks before the mid-term will set projects up for overall success.

Thank you to all the client mentors involved in this year's projects. These projects are frequently an add-on to their day jobs. We appreciate you going the extra mile to support the Capstone program!

445 CONSULTING SERVICES ENGAGEMENT MODEL

