

FAQ for Capstone Design Spring 2023

1. What should be the length of our bid for a project?
 - a. There is no specific length but faculty will compare competitive bids side by side. We will not click any links and so convince the faculty team in plain text.
2. Can we copy some elements of our team in all of our bids?
 - a. Yes, it would make sense to emphasize team member skills and experience in all of the team's bids but make sure to connect them with the project.
3. Is the process for submitting bids for BME projects different than for ME projects?
 - a. Faculty from both schools coordinate the bids before assigning teams. Submit bids on both platforms since the projects are different.
4. Can we bid only for our own project if we don't like any of the sponsored?
 - a. Yes. Only bid on projects you are willing to work on.
 - b. Working on sponsored projects generally means additional funding, access to sponsor site facilities and potentially external recommendation for future job/academic endeavors.
5. So we have to bid on our own backup project, does this mean someone else could bid on our project and potentially take it? Can a different group win the backup project that we make?
 - a. No, this is only an administrative requirement. Projects are technically submitted by individuals and bids are submitted by teams. We need the team bid to confirm the entire team is OK with working on the project along with their priority ranks.
6. Can you select a project another student submitted?
 - a. Yes, but the project will only be assigned if the student who submitted the project gets assigned another project of their team's higher priority.
7. If we have a student project, would we be able to change it later if it cannot be finished in time?
 - a. Yes, make sure to discuss with your team's assigned primary advisor.
8. Does 1 bid count for the entire team?
 - a. Yes, any member from the team submitting a bid means that it was submitted by the entire team.
9. Do we have to accept the project assigned to us?
 - a. You will be assigned projects only if you bid on it. If you bid and your team is assigned the project then you are required to work on the project, barring extenuating circumstances.
10. What happens if all your backup projects get rejected?
 - a. You can discuss options when meeting with your assigned team advisor during Wednesday's (1/18) lab. We will let you know which faculty was assigned to you by 5pm on 1/17.
11. Do our skills and proficiency rating on our profile show to the project submitter for the bids?
 - a. Faculty will deliberate and decide which team gets which project based solely on the submitted bid in plain text. Make sure to add all team member skills/experience in the bid.

12. Do we need to bid on our own original project?
 - a. Read this excerpt from the slides again:
 - i. Your team can...
 1. Only assign one priority rank per project bid. Rank of "1" means your first choice
 2. Submit bids for as many projects as available for your team
 3. Your team will be required to work on the project for which a bid was submitted and was awarded by faculty
 4. You are required to submit a bid for your own project idea as well
 5. Create/Edit/Cancel bids anytime until 5:00pm on Saturday, 14th January
 6. Add/remove team members anytime until same deadline as above
 - b. Yes, but you aren't competing with others for your own project so that bid doesn't have to be elaborate.
13. Will being in a team with 6 MEs make it harder to get bids/find advisors?
 - a. No. We are trying to make it easier to form Interdisciplinary teams but there shouldn't be any adverse impact on monodisciplinary teams (except if they are bidding for projects that absolutely require students from different majors).
14. Is there possibility of multiple teams being assigned to a project?
 - a. Yes and it depends on how competitive the bids are and sponsor willingness to advise multiple teams. Typically, in these situations, the teams are placed under advisement from different faculty and they work in sort of an internal competition or focus on different sub-system of the same project.
15. Are there any additional deliverables beyond the few interim reports and final presentation?
 - a. All deliverables will be dictated by your team's primary advisor who will be assigned to you next Tuesday
16. When will we get to meet with our sponsors?
 - a. After teams are assigned to projects (next Tuesday, 1/17 by 5:00pm), your team will receive an email introduction with your sponsor
17. Is a physical component required?
 - a. No. Your team, in consultation with the faculty, decide what validation strategy you would use to demonstrate that your proposed design would work. Physical prototyping is one option, another option could be virtual/computerized simulations.
18. How closely will we work with the actual sponsor as opposed to our faculty advisor?
 - a. Depends on your team, project and the sponsor.
 - b. Faculty will assign you final grade in the course based on how well you follow the design process.
 - c. Sponsors might offer you a job OR recommendation for other jobs depending on how well you meet their project needs.
19. Are other professors not associated with capstone allowed to be consulted during this project?
 - a. Feel free to reach out to as many people as you like for help. However, your team will be graded only by the faculty assigned as your team's primary advisor (from a pool of those assigned to teach the course this semester)
20. What are some steps to get an A in this class?
 - a. Good question and make sure to ask this to your team's assigned primary advisor.
21. Is there 1 advisor matched per group or do some advisors work w/ multiple groups?
 - a. Each ME advisor typically advises 6 groups. For non-MEs, this number would be a range from 1-6.