

FAQ for Capstone Design

Bidding

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. How many bids should you place?
 - a. At least one (which could be on your own project) up to the maximum listed projects. Only bid on projects your team wants to work on. Most teams typically submit 4-8 bids. Realize that you also must specify a priority rank when submitting your bid(s)
3. Can we copy some elements of our team in all our bids?
 - a. Yes, it would make sense to emphasize team member skills and experience in all the team's bids but connect them with the project.
4. Any significance to when you submit your bids?
 - a. No, but earlier is better, and it can dissuade other teams from bidding on your preferred project if your bid is strong!
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Can you bid on 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.
9. 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.
10. 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 of week 1

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.
11. If I propose my own project, form a team, and submit a bid for the project that gets accepted, then am I guaranteed to be able to work on the project for the rest of the semester?
 - a. Posting a project on the website or getting a bid submitted itself is not formal approval for everything written on the project description. Projects change directions and evolve, and staying stuck to a prototype or a specific solution is never the right approach for the course. Your assigned lab advisor will advise the team to tweak or change the project if the project does not seem to fit the course requirements.

Project/Advisor Assignments

12. 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.
13. What happens if all your backup projects get rejected
 - a. You can discuss options when meeting with your assigned team advisor during Wednesday's lab in week 2. We will let you know which faculty was assigned to you by 5pm on Monday or Tuesday of week 2.
14. Do our skills and proficiency ratings 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 members skills/experience in the bid.
15. If you pitch a project, do you need a faculty advisor?
 - a. No, but you should discuss it with a faculty member to confirm if the project is of sufficient scope on Wednesday in the lab. Your team will be assigned a project and faculty next Monday afternoon.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.

Team Formation

19. 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).
20. Should you form a team based on a specific project?
 - a. No, focus more on a diversely skilled team since there is no guarantee that your team will outbid the competition for a sponsored project.

21. Can teams change after this week?
 - a. No, teams are set by Wednesday at 5:00pm.
22. 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
23. Are we able to change our team name after Wednesday? (i.e., the name we picked was only a placeholder, or we want to change it to represent our assigned project)
 - a. Yes and no. You will be able to pick a new team name for the expo when expo registration opens (which typically occurs in the next month or so). Until then, the course administrators will use your original team name to refer to your team. Your current team name is only used for administrative purposes to track students, sections, etc, so you cannot change it on the projects.gatech.edu site. If you wish to refer to your team by a new name in the meantime, then that is completely fine!

Other

24. When will we get to meet with our sponsors?
 - a. After teams are assigned to projects (5:00pm on Monday or Tuesday of week 2), your team will receive an email introduction with your sponsor
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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)
28. 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.