

ENHANCING THE PROFESSIONAL DIMENSION OF UNDERGRADUATE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES



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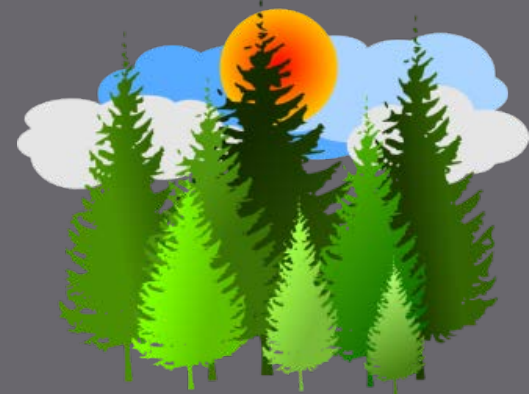
**Department of Natural Resource Ecology & Management
Oklahoma State University**

“FORESTRY” CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

GOAL: Enhance students’

- Understanding
- Competence
- Confidence

in long-range, prescriptive, management planning for forest resources, with emphasis on timber production and value.



“FORESTRY” CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

AIM: Integrate learning, knowledge, analytics, and problem-solving skills:

*ECOLOGICAL
SCIENCE*

BIOMETRICS



*ECONOMICS &
POLICY*

*HUMAN
DIMENSION*

FOCUS: Real-world scenario and experience:

- Real-world client
- Real-world property
- Real-world problem, circumstance or ambition

Real-world experience for all involved!

ORGANIZATION:

“Forestry Capstone Consulting Firm”

- CEO
- Board of Directors
- Student Consultants
- Finance Officer
- Investor Group Representative



APPROACH:

- Professional work-place environment
- Student Consultant Teams: equity in leadership and responsibility
- Team meetings with clients
- Goal-oriented work-plan, timeline and budget
- Investigation, fieldwork and analytics
- Periodic benchmark approval from the CEO and Board
- Travel requests and reimbursements
- Grounded in an ethical foundation

ULTIMATE PRODUCT & PRESENTATION:

- Written management plan of professional caliber for the client
- Preliminary oral presentation to the CEO, Board of Directors, and interested others
- Formal oral presentation to the client, investor group rep, CEO, and the Board



EVALUATION & GRADING:

<i>Work plan.....</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Final Management Plan.....</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Team evaluation by CEO, BoD & Client.....</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Individual student evaluation by CEO & BoD....</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Peer evaluation.....</i>	<i>10%</i>

A = 90-100% *top-notch, ready for promotion*

B = 80-89% *acceptable, on trajectory*

C = 70-79% *marginal, on notice*

D = 60-69% *grounds for demotion*

F = below 60% *grounds for termination*

OUTCOMES: Students exclaim...

“Worked harder than ever.”

“Tapped knowledge and skills from all courses.”

“Put it all together.”

“Confident and ready for the professional world.”

“Actually enjoyed the experience.”



QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?