

Dear Capstone Advisor,

Thank you for agreeing to supervise a Michigan Engineering honors student in their capstone project. Our shared mission to help Michigan engineering students develop both deep technical skills, as well as breadth of understanding and application, is possible only with your expertise and support. This letter outlines the expectations of the Honors Capstone for students and advisors to help enable the completion of projects that display creative problem-solving and diverse application of knowledge.

The Honors Capstone guidelines are intentionally broad to encourage students to pursue entrepreneurship, design, research, or service projects unique to their interests, knowledge, and skill. Honors Capstones should include a connection to engineering principles, but they are not meant to be a replication or replacement of the Major Design Experience. Student initiative and creative pursuits are strongly encouraged, and capstone projects may vary from engineering design, to traditional research theses, to education and public service. Although the specific nature of each project may vary, all Honors Capstones should be held to the following expectations:

- Individual student ownership and initiative – some ownership over design, decision-making, and problem-solving involved in the project; not simply following through on another’s plans
- Scholarly/professional work & intellectual foundation – reflects the high expectations for graduating Michigan Engineers; grounded in the knowledge, principles, and methods of the field, and approached with professional skills and tools
- Faculty mentorship/supervision – mentored by U-M faculty with expertise in project topic
- Broad impact – capstones must have an impact beyond personal improvement, to the company, organization, academic field, or community
- Public presentation of results – written final report, presentation at Design Expo, and sharing of work through online Honors Capstone Library are required
- Time Commitment – *minimum* expectation is 140 hours (10 hours/week for 1 full semester – equivalent to a 3 credit hour class)
- Team Capstones – team capstones are permitted, but must include a description of individual goals and contributions to the project in both capstone proposal and final report; each team member should have a unique contribution to the effort and the level of effort for the individual is expected to be the same as an individual project
- Grading/Evaluation – completion of the Honors Capstone should, at an absolute minimum, meet the faculty advisor’s expectations for a passing grade (C or better) for the work

Thank you for supporting our Engineering Honors students in pursuit of this educational experience. If you have any questions please contact me at [ridley@umich.edu](mailto:ridley@umich.edu), or Rachel Armstrong, Honors Academic Advisor at [armstra@umich.edu](mailto:armstra@umich.edu) or (734) 647-7184.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Ridley