ESPP Capstone Project Application

The goal of the ESPP Capstone project is to give students an integrative experience of interdisciplinary environmental science and policy research that builds on their knowledge from previous ESP courses and helps solidify the networks and community the students have created with others both in and beyond the Environmental Science and Policy Program.

Two courses are designed to serve as a platform for the Capstone experience – ESP 804 and FW 868. When neither course is available or attractive to a student, the student may propose an alternative Capstone project to fulfill the final requirement of the Environmental Science and Policy Dual Major.

Before beginning such a project, the student must submit a proposal to and receive approval from the director of ESPP. To be approved, proposals must include the following elements:

- Intellectual merit,
- Demonstration of interdisciplinarity of the project,
- Evidence of relevant policy questions to be explored and their connections to interdisciplinary science,
- Proof of collaboration, ideally with others of different disciplines from the ESPP community, but at the least with others outside of the students’ home discipline,
- A timeline of regular meetings with group members and/or advisors,
- A plan for publishing the final product, whether it be a white paper, report or other publication, and
- A substantial direct contribution to the project by the student.

If you decide to pursue a capstone experience project, please submit your proposal (up to three pages) to espp@msu.edu with the subject line “Capstone Project Proposal.”

All capstone proposals as well as the final capstone projects will be reviewed by the Graduate Program Council three times a year only: March 1, July 15 and October 1. You may submit your capstone proposals and projects at any time but the review will not begin until after the next deadline has passed. The council will then have two weeks to review all requests and let ESPP staff know which proposals were approved and denied. The staff will communicate those decisions to students via email with official letters attached to send to the student’s home department to become part of their academic record.

It is the student’s responsibility to submit final projects/waiver requests in time to assure the review is completed before graduation.

STUDENT NAME ________________________________________________

MAJOR__________________________________________________________

DATE ___________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

Student Signature confirming that they understand
the requirements of the capstone project.