

Sponsor Guidelines and Acknowledgment for Participation in the NJIT Capstone Project

The Capstone Project at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) is an educational program facilitated by the College of Computing Sciences at NJIT which aims at offering a rewarding real-world learning experience for students as well as cost-effective assistance to our Sponsors. The main goal of the Capstone Project is twofold. First, to train students to apply software engineering strategies and practical fundamental knowledge acquired during their tenure at NJIT to assist in solving real-world problems while providing students with exposure to the corporate environment. Secondly, to provide our Sponsors with talented students who bring fresh insight and knowhow to work with our Sponsors to solve sponsor identified problems.

As a Sponsor, I understand and acknowledge that:

1. The Capstone Project is an educational program and a graded course offered by the College of Computing Sciences at NJIT. The Capstone Project aims at offering a rewarding real-world learning experience for students as well as cost-effective assistance to participating Sponsors.
2. The students will be supervised by an NJIT professor (Capstone Facilitator) who will be responsible for providing guidance to the teams, resolving any issues that may result from the facilitation of the Capstone Project and issuing the final grade at its end.
3. The students will work in teams, under supervision of the Capstone Facilitator, while collaborating with Sponsor to solve well-defined problems.
4. The students will use their undergraduate educational background, experience, and capstone course training to complete the Sponsor's projects. The Sponsor understands and acknowledges that the students may experience a learning curve in relation to both understanding the problem as well as mastering the skills needed to solve problems. While NJIT expects its students to do their best to receive good grades, it is clearly understood that they are neither professionals nor shall their final results be assessed according to standards in the industry or as professional experts.
5. Students will work as structured-teams within an academic course time frame on a pre-approved project relevant to their field of education and submit course and project deliverables to the NJIT instructor and Sponsor as required and agreed upon by instructor and Sponsor. Students are expected to dedicate an average of 9 hours/ per week /per student for their Capstone Projects in addition to their class meetings and responsibilities.
6. Course documentation deliverables represent a crucial part of the problem-solving process and they are required from all students. The deliverables are based on sponsor-provided data and require ongoing collaboration with the Sponsor. Sponsor's appreciation of the importance of these deliverables helps students submit quality deliverables which facilitate the learning process as well as greatly benefit the Sponsor by ensuring deliverables that are carefully tailored and integrated with sponsor business requirements.
7. As a Sponsor, I am obliged to offer the maximum amount of assistance and support possible to students throughout the semester.
8. As a Sponsor, I acknowledge that I anticipate working with the student team for the academic semester. I am obliged to attend at a minimum the final presentation in-class. Attending additional presentations are not required but are highly beneficial to both the student to assist in the obtaining valuable feedback, and the Sponsor to lessen the learning curve and facilitate a higher quality deliverable that resolves the problem initially presented by the Sponsor.
9. As a Sponsor, I am obliged to submit the specified sponsor evaluation form on time.

10. As a Sponsor, I realize that while students may voluntarily facilitate their means of transportation, communication and other resources for their project(s), they are not obliged to do so unless otherwise reimbursed for their expenses.
11. The Capstone Facilitator will use teaching and collaborative evaluation to train and motivate students to meet Sponsor's expectations as much as possible. However, as a Sponsor, I acknowledge that neither the Capstone Facilitator nor NJIT can guarantee the student's work nor that the end results will meet all Sponsor expectations. As such, I understand that NJIT specifically disclaims all warranties or representations, either express or implied, including without limitation that any deliverable does not infringe any patent, copyright or trademark.
12. As a Sponsor, I understand NJIT shall instruct its students to respect the confidential nature of all proprietary information made available to them through their participation in the Capstone Project. This includes information from the Sponsor with whom they are directly working with as well as other Sponsors in the Capstone Project whose proprietary information may be disclosed in the course of classroom presentation and the like. The Sponsor acknowledges its responsibility to disclose any such information on a limited need-to-know basis and clearly identify to the students orally or in writing that such information is propriety and is not to be disclosed outside the requirements of the Capstone Project. The Sponsor acknowledges that it is to their benefit to review student presentations in an effort to assist the student in understanding what the Sponsor considers proprietary information that should be kept confidential.
13. The Sponsor agrees if required by the scope of the project proposed by the Sponsor and approved by the Capstone Facilitator, to make available facilities, workspace, and materials to enable students to complete field internship assignments within the Sponsor's facilities. Sponsor agrees to not permit students to enter areas of its facilities posing high risks to health and safety.
14. The Sponsor agrees that all student or Capstone Facilitator inventions resulting from the performance of the Capstone Project, including data, software, or the like, that are intrinsic to and derived from Sponsor's proprietary materials or information shall belong solely (100%) to Sponsor. If during the course of the Capstone Project, a student participant in the Capstone Project and/or the Capstone Facilitator invents a technology that is non-intrinsic to nor derived from Sponsor's propriety information, the rights to the technology shall vest solely with NJIT in accordance with NJIT's official Intellectual Property Policy. If during the course of the Capstone Project, a student participant in the Capstone Project and/or the Capstone Facilitator and an employee of the Sponsor jointly invent a technology that is non-intrinsic to nor derived from the Sponsor's propriety information, the rights to the technology shall be jointly owned (50/50) by the Sponsor and NJIT.
15. Sponsor understands that students are evaluated by a letter grade at the end of the semester and their final grade is at the sole discretion of the Capstone Facilitator. The final evaluation incorporates the Sponsor's evaluation as well as many factors considered by the Capstone Facilitator including educational outcomes, deliverables, documentation reports, presentations, attendance, extra credit, etc.
16. The Capstone Project reserves the right to reject any project proposal if Sponsor fails to meet the standards of the Capstone project, policies or expectations.
17. Sponsors are required to submit their project proposals online through the NJIT Capstone Project system. Submitting the proposal or presenting it to students does not guarantee its approval or selection. Once a project is approved by the instructor and selected by students, the requirements cannot be changed unless the changes are agreed upon, in writing, by both the students and instructor.
18. The Capstone Project reserves the right to reject project renewals and/or terminate ongoing projects if the Sponsor makes changes or alterations that the Capstone Facilitators deem to be critical changes in requirements or become inconsistent with Capstone Project standards, policies or expectations.
19. As a Sponsor, I agree that I will not mistreat, disrespect, misuse or overuse the students participating in the Capstone Project. I acknowledge that if the Capstone Facilitator, based on good faith believes that the Sponsor

has mistreated, disrespected, misused, overused, unfairly made demands upon or refused to offer necessary resources and help to students, the Sponsor is subject to project cancellation and/or maybe excluded from future participation in the Capstone Project.

- 20. The Capstone Project formally concludes at the completion of the NJIT academic semester. However, students and Sponsors may choose or be required to continue their relationship based on the individual needs of the Capstone Project. Deviations from completion of the Capstone Project at the end of the NJIT academic semester will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Capstone Facilitator.
- 21. The Capstone Facilitator, although committed to providing assistance to both the students and the Sponsor, is limited by the academic semester and the students' capabilities in offering help. As a Sponsor, I understand that the Capstone Facilitator will use best efforts to resolve issues arising from the Capstone Project, but at the completion of the academic semester, the Capstone Facilitator may have no control over student participants.
- 22. As a Sponsor, I understand that while NJIT may offer Capstone services free of charge – except for voluntary contributions to help share the program expenses across the sponsoring organizations – NJIT and the Capstone Project reserve the right to impose necessary fees on project Sponsors with prior notice for continued future participation.
- 23. Sponsor agrees that NJIT shall not be liable for any third-party claims arising out of Sponsor's use of the Capstone Project deliverables and Sponsor will hold NJIT harmless against the same.
- 24. Sponsor or NJIT may terminate the Capstone Project relationship between the two upon four (4) weeks prior written notice. However, both Sponsor and NJIT will use their best efforts to complete all programs that they have commenced.

As the Sponsor, I have read and I agree to the above Sponsor Guidelines for Participation in the NJIT Capstone Project:

Name of Corporate Sponsor

**Printed Name of the Corporate Sponsor Representative
Facilitating Sponsor's Participation in the NJIT
Capstone Project**

Title of Sponsor Representative

Signature

Date