

GCeCS and Capstone: Outline of Expectations

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All students keep in mind, the overarching goals of the GCeCS. Students will:

- Demonstrate mastery of multidisciplinary climate science through the **creation** of material that communicates some aspect of the physical climate system, climate impacts and/or adaptation.
- Learn to become better communicators, through coursework, creation of communication, and by evaluating the effectiveness of their communication (you are encouraged to consult with Angela Davis-Unger in UW Office of Educational Assessment, acd2@uw.edu)
- Share their experience by creating a blog post reflecting on both what you learned from the capstone experience and how you impacted your audience.

To be awarded the certificate, your GCeCS file in the PCC office must include documentation and PCC graduate advisor approvals as follows (read below for details):

- Form stating intent to participate, with necessary transcripts and student number
- Departmental acknowledgement and approval (email from departmental advisor) to participate*
- Plan for completing required coursework including capstone credits and who will award them** (suggested for all, but written plan is only required for those working to complete a two year graduate program)
- Final project proposal (with email approvals from mentors and PCC Director)
- Final evaluation plan
- Project final report (with email approvals from mentors and PCC Director)
- Final blog post describing the capstone experience, collaborations, and reflections
- Meetings with the PCC Graduate Advisor each quarter enrolled in capstone credits

*If not enrolled as a graduate student in ESS, OCEAN or ATMOS, **obtain approval/acknowledgement** of participation in the GCeCS from your departmental advisor. This should be submitted as an email to uwppcc@uw.edu.

**Sign up for a total of 5 capstone credits, OCEAN/ATMO S/ESS 596 over 1 or more quarters. The final credit should be taken on the quarter you submit the final report. If you have a GCeCS project advisor/mentor who is faculty in Atmospheric Sciences, Oceanography, or Earth and Space Sciences you can sign up for credits with that faculty member. If you do not, then sign up for credits with the PCC Director. In either case, document the quarter and the number of credits and the professor who will give you the grade.

Recommendations for those who want to complete the GCeCS and capstone while completing a two degree

Required Coursework-As soon as possible, preferably during the first quarter in your graduate program, submit plan for completing required coursework that fits with your departmental requirements, to the PCC academic advisor (Miriam Bertram, uwpsc@uw.edu). Be sure to include a plan for completing the two required seminars (586 and a Science Communication seminar).

Capstone project

1. Identify a project by the end of your first year.
 - a. Start to explore possible projects and partners while taking the required courses. If at all possible, attend any capstone informational meetings and learn about previously completed projects. Read blogs and descriptions of past capstone projects available on the PCC website and through the PCC academic advisor.
 - b. Before the end of your first year, brainstorm ideas for capstone projects with the PCC academic advisor and with potential mentors. Note that some graduate students complete a significant portion of their capstone during first year summer internships, and this requires planning ahead.
 - c. Explore potential synergies between the GCeCS capstone project and departmental degree projects. If the GCeCS project has overlap with degree projects, you will need to clearly articulate the distinction between the GCeCS capstone project and your degree projects.
 - d. Identify a project, partners and mentors.
2. Obtain all necessary approvals for project proposal during (or before) the first quarter of your second year. Proposal guidelines outlined [here](#).
 - a. On or before the first quarter of second year obtain examples of capstone proposals that are most similar to your project. Every project is unique and distinct, so these proposals are simply guides.
 - b. Identify project mentor(s). These are individuals with expertise in the content being communicated and/or with expertise in working with the audience with whom you are communicating. It is often appropriate to have two mentors. Mentors and advisors submit emails to uwpsc@uw.edu stating they support the students' participation and will be actively engaged.
 - c. Submit draft proposal to PCC graduate advisor for approval; project mentors then approve (via email), and revised draft submitted for final approval to the PCC director.
 - d. The draft proposal must include a general plan for evaluating the communication; the final questionnaire can be submitted later, but prior to presenting the communication.
3. Develop and deliver the communication, with audience evaluation, during the second quarter of your second year.

- a. Once you identify the goals of the communication, discuss evaluation options with Angela in UW'S OEA. Submit evaluation plan for approval to the PCC graduate advisor.
 - b. If you are basing your communication on your departmental research, this is more difficult to accomplish, and you should expect to find yourself scrambling during the third quarter of your second year.
 - c. The PCC graduate advisor can help identify and secure audiences, as needed.
 - d. Discuss any changes from the initial proposal with the PCC graduate advisor, to ensure you are still meeting the requirements of the capstone.
4. Reflect on the project and write up the final report in your final quarter at UW. Do your best to complete on or before finals week!

For every quarter enrolled in capstone credits, you are **required** to meet with the PCC academic advisor to discuss progress.