



Master's Project Client Overview

What is a Master's Project?

Under the guidance of a faculty advisor, teams of approximately five [master's students work with a sponsoring organization, or client, on a sustainability challenge proposed by the client.](#)

The student teams are interdisciplinary and combine expertise across several SEAS specializations—providing collaborative engagement that prepares students for careers in sustainability fields and helps further a client's sustainability goals.

works closely with the client and a faculty advisor until project completion, which is approximately 15 to 18 months.

Project Proposals

The final project proposal, agreed upon by team members and clients, should include:

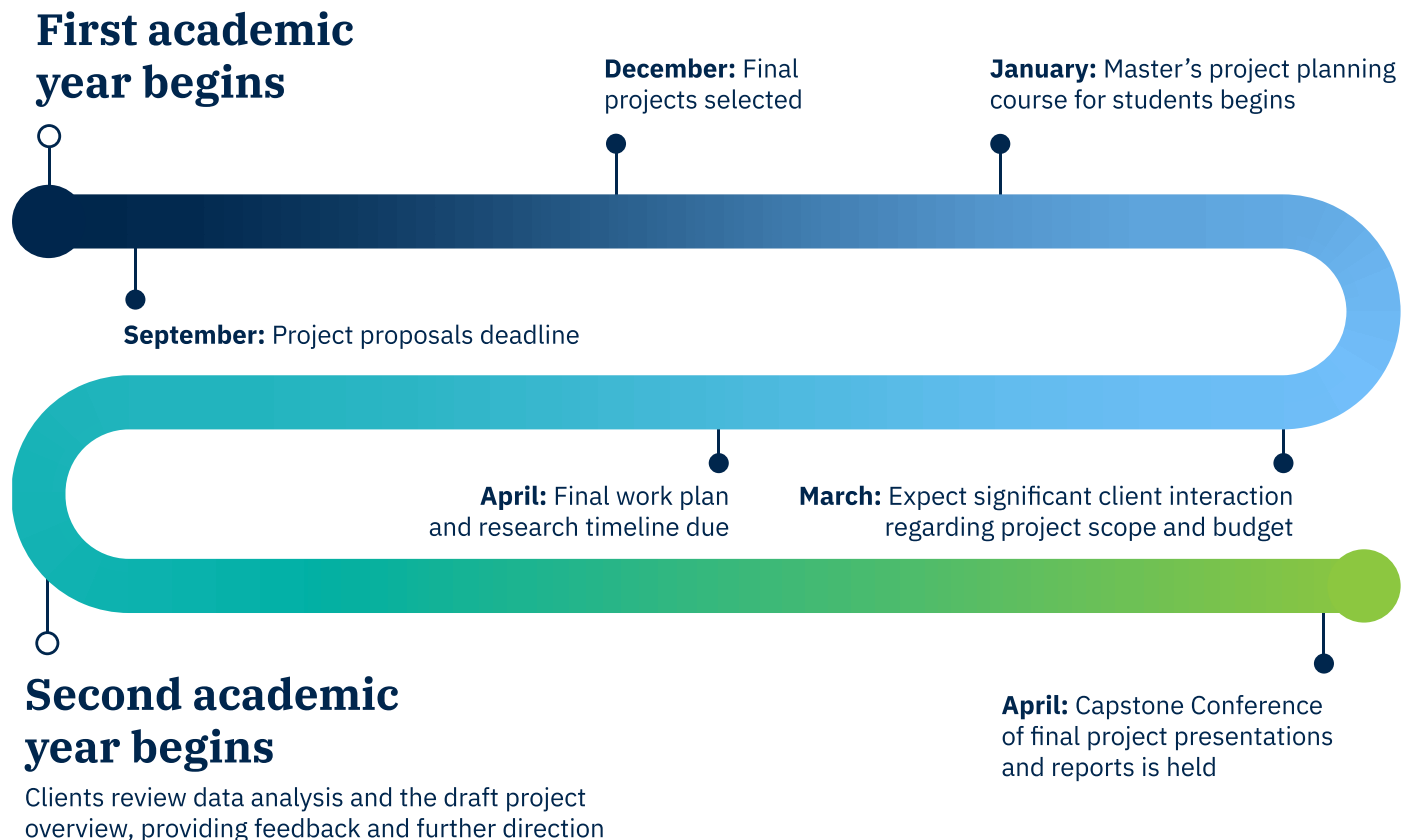
(1) clear educational objectives; (2) anticipated research question(s), tasks and products; (3) clearly defined interdisciplinary components; (4) a description of each team member's previous experience or preparation as required to complete their tasks in the work plan; and (5) anticipated timeline to complete project and deliverables.

A final summary report by students is a common final deliverable, and is required for the degree.

[Take a look at past projects and reports.](#)

Timeline

Unless otherwise posted online, project proposals are due in September each year. Advancing projects are determined by December. The student team





Financial Assistance

Clients are not required, but are encouraged to financially assist the team. This support can take the form of: travel expenses, room and board for overnight research, or costs for project deliverables. Note: Clients that can offer internship funds are highly sought after and often advance. Contact seas-projects@umich.edu for more guidance on funding suggestions and levels. Students also receive limited financial support from U-M for basic materials and direct expenses.

“I cannot express how impressed I am with your program and the SEAS students with whom we worked on the groundwater strategy. I have renewed hope for the future because of the talent and work ethic they have demonstrated.”

—Dave Dempsey, Senior Policy Advisor,
Flow Water Advocates

Client Expectations

- Fully engage and commit to working with the team for the duration of their 15- to 18-month project. A client commitment form is provided to project clients that are selected to proceed.
- Provide a lead point of contact for the team and be timely in responding to team members.

- Respond to student questions. Students likely select a project based on their career or research interests. Anticipate fielding student questions about your career path or areas of expertise.

Types of Client Organizations

- Local governments
- Nonprofits
- Corporations
- Federal agencies
- Local, state and national parks

Recent Projects

- [Designing Connections: U.S. Great Lakes Water Trail](#) (created a starter guide with tools and resources to help Great Lakes communities develop trail designs)
- [Community Resilience: Diverse Economies, Community Supported Agriculture and Resource Sharing on the Osa Peninsula](#) (analyzed the impacts of tourism, conservation and agriculture on the peninsula’s rural communities)
- [Assessment of the Embodied Water in Purchased Electricity for LinkedIn](#) (supported LinkedIn’s goal of becoming more “water positive” by assessing its indirect water usage)

Recent Clients

