Senior Design Q & A

Registration, General Course Info:
Q: What is the registration process for this course?
A: The registration has two phases. In Phase 1 (starting from April 16) you need to register for each 650:467 (for ME students) or 650:487 (for AE students). In Phase 2 you form a group and find your faculty advisor, and register for your specific group section by SPN, which will be provided later by your advisor.

Q: Can ME students register for 650:487? What about AE students registering for 650:467?
A: All AE students (i.e., the students whose degree is AE, not ME students with AE concentration) should register for 650:487, as ABET has specific requirements for AE senior design projects. ME students may work on an ME project or an AE project. In Phase 1, we suggest all ME students register for 650:467, and we will adjust later if necessary.

Q: If I am taking a prerequisite (e.g., thermo) in the summer will I still be able to register for Senior Design?
A: Yes, as long as you can complete all the prerequisites before Fall 2020.

Q: What happens if I am half a year behind and am planning on graduation the fall semester later? I am missing 2 prerequisites.
A: Senior design is a two-semester course that begins in Fall and ends in Spring. If you cannot register for AY 2021, you need to register for it in AY 2122.

Q: The section times, are they set, or worked around everyone’s schedule?
A: The entire class will meet once a week (an 80 min lecture), which is set. Other times (e.g., TA meetings, meetings with your faculty advisor) will be determined later, based on everyone’s schedule.

Q: Can we have an access to this year’s expo?
A: Yes. We will share the relevant information/schedule with you once available.

Q: If we are not on campus next semester what happens to senior design?
A: It will be done remotely. Fall semester focuses more on design and analysis (which can be done remotely) and Spring semester on manufacturing/testing.

Q: What is the Mech Eng Lab 1/2 (650:431/2)?
A: That’s a different course.
Form Group; Choose your Project

Q: What's your recommendation on how to form a group?
A: Generally, we would recommend that the team covers all the skills that are required by the project. A good team should integrate the strengths of all group members, and all group members should contribute equally to the project. Your skills/strengths are the key factor that you need to consider when forming a group.

Q: Size limit on groups?
A: A typical group consists 4 to 6 students.

Q: Can you explain the difference between choosing a professor, company, or group for the senior design projects?
A: You will find the projects that are proposed by the professors. Some of these projects may have company sponsorship (which may increase the budget). In the case that your group wants to propose a project by your own, you need to find a professor who is willing to be your advisor.

Q: Is it one group to one professor?
A: Some professors may have more than one groups. Please contact with the professors.

Q: Is it okay to approach a professor as a group looking for an idea, rather than just asking them individually?
A: Yes. You can contact a professor as a group or individually.

Q: Does your project proposal to the professor have to align with projects that they are currently doing or can you ask which ever professor to be your senior design professor?
A: If you are proposing a project yourself, you need to find a professor who is willing to be your advisor. The project does not need to align with the other projects from the professor.

Q: If we find a group that we want to work with sometime in May do we just email you saying we want to form a group?
A: You also need to find a faculty advisor. The official list of the students working on each project will be provided by the faculty.

Q: Are professors’ groups made on a first come first serve basis?
A: Depends on the professors. Some of them may do first come first serve; some of them may do it in a different way (e.g., interview). We suggest that you reach out to the professors as soon as possible.

Q: How do we go about choosing a group if we don’t really know anyone here? I just transferred in last semester. Is there a listing somewhere of others who need to form a group?
A: We will organize some WebEx sections for you to know each other.

Q: What should be our next step? Do we wait until you post the list of professors/projects? Would you suggest that we start reaching out to professors now if we have an idea of what our project will be?
A: Yes. We will post the projects soon. If you have an idea of your own project you can reach out to the professors now.
**Machine shop:**

Q: If we have machine shop training from somewhere else, will we be able to get access earlier and what documentation would the department require?
A: You will need to schedule a meeting with Dr. Basily and Mr. Simonovic. They will evaluate your skills and determine if you are qualified for the machine shop access.

Q: How do we gain additional experience in machining?
A: We will provide necessary training sessions, if time permits.

Q: Are we able to use the maker space on Livingston campus?
A: Yes if the university resumes operating in a regular mode.