

Student Projects at Stanford: Senior Project Course

Stanford has various opportunities for student teams to work on projects with local organizations. Seniors majoring in Management Science & Engineering will take part in the Senior Project Course (MS&E 108) in the Winter Quarter (January through March). Working in teams of four with ongoing faculty guidance, students act as consultants to independently address a host organization's real-life problem. The problem is selected and defined by the host organization and approved by the faculty. The students study the problem, conduct interviews, perform research and analysis, and propose and/or assist in the implementation of a solution. The experience is highly rewarding for both the students and the host organization: students gain experience and see first-hand the application of their skills, while the host organization gets free advice from a highly talented and competent group of Stanford seniors.

An ideal project for the students in the Senior Project Course involves a problem that is important to the host organization but is manageable in scope for a team of students. The course faculty have experience in assessing whether or not the scope of a proposed project is sufficiently rich to provide a challenge, yet sufficiently well defined to be attacked and analyzed within a ten-week quarter.

Students in the Senior Project Course are equipped to address a wide range of topics. Their basic curriculum equips them to study, design, and improve organizational and decision-making structures in a data- and technology-rich environment. Beyond this framework, students specialize in one of five areas: Financial and Decision Engineering; Operations Research; Organization, Technology, and Entrepreneurship; Policy and Strategy; and Production and Operations Management. Thus, a large variety of skills and talents are available from Senior Project Course students. Teams of students with the appropriate background and skills will be matched to projects based upon the nature of each project.

From the sponsoring organization's viewpoint, hosting a student team requires them to propose a project; provide a point of contact for the students for frequent contact during the quarter; give the team access to data and information about the project; and answer questions over the course of the project. At the end of the quarter the sponsoring organization will receive a written and oral report on the team's results, findings and recommendations, all without charge. Projects take place during Winter Quarter and project proposals are evaluated during November-December.

If your organization is interested in proposing a project, please email a brief (one paragraph) description to:

Prof. Ross D. Shachter, shachter@stanford.edu, 650-353-7456
course website: <http://msande108.stanford.edu/sponsors.shtml>

A response prior to December 15 would be most helpful.