Capstone Design Lab

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I get a locker and tools?
A: First, take the capstone safety quiz. This will be available through Blackboard during Capstone 1 in the Summer. After ALL your group members have passed the quiz, talk to Bridget Smyser to get a locker.

Q: How do I get access to the lab?
A: Your group will be given an access code during Capstone 1. This code will be used by the whole group for the duration of capstone. It is also used for the door of 356SN, the IE computer lab.

Q: When is the lab open?
A: The lab is open 24/7.

Q: What sorts of activities are allowed in the Capstone lab?
A: The following activities are allowed at any time:

- Group meetings
- Electronics work (soldering, debugging, general low voltage circuit work)
- Non-powered hand tool work
- Computer work
- Non-hazardous testing

The following activities are restricted to regular business hours (8-5pm):

- Anything involving power tools (Drills, powered saws, etc.)
- Anything involving high voltage
- Anything involving chemicals that you can’t buy at a supermarket
- Any testing that is potentially hazardous

Q: What if I need ventilation?
A: Ventilation is required for epoxy work, composites construction, painting, and anything involving potentially dangerous gases, such as large amounts of CO$_2$. This type of work must be done in a fume hood. Please see Bridget Smyser for access.

Q: What do I need to do before I can start my experiment?
A: You need to write up a Standard Operating Procedure, or SOP. This is a description of the work you wish to do and should include:
- A description of the procedure
- A list of required equipment
- A description of any safety concerns and how they will be addressed
- A list of required protective equipment

This must be approved by your advisor, the capstone coordinator, and the lab director before you begin work.

Q: Who do I talk to if I need a computer with LabView?
A: Tom Olson (t.olson@neu.edu) can assign computers to groups. Kevin McCue (k.mccue@neu.edu) is the local LabView expert.

Q: I need sensors. Where do I go?
A: If you need to borrow thermocouples, scales, multimeters, or anything else in our sensor library (LINK!) talk to Kevin McCue. Note that we may need these things back for lab courses at any time. You are expected to keep these in your capstone locker when they are not in use.

Q: I just need a few screws/bolts/random hardware. Where do I find those?
A: We have a large selection of tools and hardware in the storage room behind the machine shop. Talk to Jon Doughty, Kevin McCue, or Bridget Smyser. The cabinets are labeled with their contents. Please return borrowed tools to the correct cabinet.