MQE CAPSTONE PROJECTS

The over-arching goal of the MQE Capstone Project is to enhance student employability by providing them with a hands-on experience by applying what they have learned in the MQE program with tangible project results that potential employers will value. The course will ensure that MQE graduates hit the ground running as an economic analyst.

The Department of Economics ranks among the top 40 economic departments in the U.S. with 36 faculty, 59 doctoral students, 15 master students, and 574 undergraduates. Almost a quarter of all Pitt students enroll in an economics course and 58% of economic students graduate with honors.

COURSE CONTENT

• Small student groups work on real-world problems obtained from partner organizations.
• Students have a client-analyst relationship with the client-partner through interim meetings, progress reports, and a final presentation.
• Guided by a faculty mentor, students gain experience in working through the different stages of being an economic analyst: (1) question formulation; (2) literature survey; (3) data collection and organization; (4) analysis; (5) presentation/communication of final conclusions.
• Special emphasis will be placed on "big picture" thinking: Keeping the goals of the organization in mind, using economic theory to refine or develop additional questions, and selecting the right analysis tools for the problem at hand.
• The course will introduce students to special topics in data collection and creation, including randomized control trials when the ideal data do not exist.

PARTNER – PROJECTS

Organizations that provide a project will obtain valuable analysis from our motivated and talented students. The ideal project will involve:
• Well-defined question or questions from the client as a starting point.
• Data provided by the client that can be used to address the question.
• Project scope such that it can be addressed within 10 weeks.
• Client participation: An initial 20 minute presentation about the question, two or three interim meetings with the student group, and a final meeting where students present the results.

Organizations and professionals interested in the MQE Capstone Projects and employee recruitment, please contact: Shannon Mischler, Program Director | sjmischler@pitt.edu | (412) 383-5425 | MQE.Pitt.edu