CS e-Capstone • Fall 2021

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO | DAVID R. CHERITON SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

What is the CS e-Capstone?

The **CS e-Capstone** is an opportunity for upper-year undergraduates and graduate students in computer science to take initiative and develop critically important entrepreneurial skills by solving a real-world problem they are passionate about.

Students will experience — in a very hands-on way — the process of taking an idea, critically assessing its feasibility, testing assumptions with potential users, building a proof-of- concept, and ultimately pitching it to a general audience.

Although not a requirement of the CS e-Capstone, some teams may choose to develop their proof-of-concept into a fully functional and market-relevant product or service via a start-up venture.

Why are we offering the CS e-Capstone?

Having an entrepreneurial mindset and drive will become the norm instead of a novelty. This is true not only in high-tech companies, but across the workforce. Entrepreneurism will be expected and encouraged in the incoming workforce.

The David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science seeks to set up its students for success in anything they choose to do.

eCapstone funding is made possible by the generosity of Sam Pasupalak, a CS alumni and co-founder of Maluuba, a company acquired by Microsoft for $140M. Through Sam's philanthropy, we are able to offer three prizes —

• **First prize** — $2,500
• **Second prize** — $1,500
• **Third prize** — $1,000

Why get involved?

• Become a more entrepreneurial computer scientist
• Get advice from and exchange ideas with industry professionals and entrepreneurs
• Expand your network by getting to know peers from across the David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science
• Learn about software management and project management as you develop and launch your own product
• Develop strong communication skills by learning how to pitch a technical idea to a broad audience
• Discover the process of transforming a technical concept into a relevant product or service within an existing organization or by launching a company of your own
• Enjoy a potential career transformation by accelerating and validating a start-up idea
• Win funding to support your initiative
• Receive a CS e-Capstone certificate of completion

What do you need?

• A team of two to five people you want to work with
• Opt into the CS e-Capstone as a team, ready to work on a project you are excited about
• You do not need to have a project idea at the time you opt in
• Participate in the five mandatory workshops (see below)
• Seek mentorship advice by booking at least three 1:1 sessions with available mentors
• Pitch your idea at the end of the term

Date	Activity or milestone
September 26	Last day for students to opt in
October 6	Problem identification (workshop)
October 20	How others have done it (workshop)
November 3	Customer discovery (workshop)
November 17	Proof-of-concept (workshop)
December 1	How to get buy-in for your idea (workshop & pitching)
December 14	Live pitches • Top 3 winners announced • Certificates of completion from the Math Innovation Office

CS e-Capstone opt-in at **https://airtable.com/shrX3UhUgIZEWXRsL** • Questions? Please contact **Camelia Nunez** at **cnunez@uwaterloo.ca**