

Impact: There will be no impact on the resources and staffing of the NM department due to this change. No new lab equipment or space will be needed. Offering NM 438 during Term I and NM 490 during Term II will allow students to complete the senior capstone requirement in one semester rather than two.

Rationale: Currently, students can take NM 438 without having completed a single course in their emphasis area. Changing the prerequisite so that students will be required to have at least one course will better prepare the student for the capstone project. Likewise, students should take the Senior Capstone course NM 438 before taking NM 490 in order to have the proper practice for this self-directed senior studio course.

In NM 438, students will work on a large scale team project and further develop their conceptual and technical skills. This will prepare students to create the self-directed projects that will be completed in NM 490. Reducing the credit hours and workload for NM 438 and 490 will allow the courses to be offered as Term I & II model in one semester, thus enabling student to graduate in a more timely manner.