



Final Project Criteria for EMGT2455

Students in the Disaster and Emergency Management (EMGT) Diploma program are required to complete their studies with the EMGT2455 Final Project Course. This 3-credit course requires that students have completed all 1100, 1200 and 2300 level courses prior to enrolling to ensure that they have the theoretical and practical foundation to be successful in this final course.

The official course description for EMGT2455 is as follows:

This course will challenge students to translate their theoretical learning from the program, into the practical environment to address a "real-world" challenge or issue. Students will engage with stakeholders in the disaster and emergency management (D&EM) community and through consultation, identify an independent research project that considers a specific process, practice, issue, or possible initiative that will enhance and strengthen the emergency management field. Students will use project management principles to develop a project plan and once approved, conduct independent research, and develop a report/research paper that will be shared with the relevant stakeholders to develop a set of recommendations for an action plan and ongoing research. Students will be required to present their project findings as both a written report as well as a professional presentation to key stakeholders and members of the NAIT community.

We have compiled a list of D&EM stakeholders and potential projects, to be shared with our EMGT2455 students. Ultimately, it is the student's accountability to identify a stakeholder of interest and reach out and in partnership with the stakeholder, identify and choose their Final Project topic. We encourage students to reflect on their areas of interest, expertise, and career goals when doing this. All projects require ongoing engagement with a D&EM stakeholder so that the student can:

- Establish scope and objectives;
- Identify and become familiar with current processes/protocols/procedures relevant to the project;
- Determine the best approach to solve the problem in coordination with the stakeholder; and
- Confirm expected deliverables and establish a clear time line that meets both the stakeholder's and the Program's needs.

Additional project considerations:

- The project must be sized, or scalable, to be completed within the set 15-week term period. This includes the final report and presentation.
- With the limited time period, students will not be able to secure an ethics review, therefore the project cannot involve student initiated surveys, interviews or focus groups with human participants.
- Stakeholder are required to provide formal feedback to the student and instructor on the oral presentation/final report.
- Confidentiality agreements can be established if required by the stakeholder, however, they must allow for the sharing of findings with their faculty member to facilitate evaluations.



Potential projects could include (non-exhaustive list):

- Site audit to support life-safety plans;
- Review of business continuity plans;
- Development of a component of the stakeholder's emergency management plan;
- Review/audit of emergency management plan;
- Exercise planning design, implementation, and/or evaluation;
- Site evacuation planning support;
- Crisis communications plan development;
- Interagency interoperability assessments;
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments;
- Disaster Risk Reduction planning/evaluations;
- Resiliency needs assessments; and
- Other process improvement type projects.

Benefits to Stakeholders:

D&EM stakeholders will benefit from accessing the knowledge and talent of NAIT's EMGT Diploma students. Our students have been taught the latest theory and approaches that support current D&EM work. They will be able to provide a critical review and recommendations, supported by current literature and research, to help the stakeholder achieve their desired outcomes, at no cost to the stakeholder.

Benefits to Students:

Students will benefit from being able to apply their course learning in the practical environment. This will also provide students with the opportunity to showcase their knowledge/abilities and engage at a professional level with a D&EM stakeholder, all while contributing to the broader D&EM community in a practical and relevant way. Students will be able to address a real-world D&EM problem or issue and evaluate their own competency to engage in the work after graduation.

Stakeholders who are interested in this opportunity are asked to submit the following information to the program leader for inclusion on the list:

- Stakeholder (agency/organization) name;
- Primary contact;
- Contact phone number/email; and
- A brief project topic description.

These should be submitted to the attention of the Program Chair at emgt@nait.ca