The Construction Systems Management major at OSU is a four-year program designed to prepare students to be construction managers on any type of construction project after graduation; highway, residential, or commercial. When CSM students graduate, they are qualified to fill quite a number and variety of positions within the construction industry, including scheduling, estimating, managing crews, sales, site development and many more.

Some key points about the CSM curriculum are:

An internship is required of all students in the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and CSM students have had opportunities to work temporarily in all corners of the United States as well as in several other countries around the world. Upon their return from the internship the students are required to register for a three-hour course where they review their experience with the instructor and peers and they are also required to share their experience in a class of underclassmen in course CSM 2305, the first professional development course offered in the program. This inside track on internship experiences is a wonderful educational tool for the underclassmen and the speaking opportunity is an excellent professional development opportunity for the returning intern.

Students in the Department of Food, Agriculture and Biological Engineering have excellent resources they can count on at OSU. In addition to an open, airy and comfortable computer lab accessible to every student in the department, each student is assigned a Faculty or Instructor Advisor in their area of interest. The Undergraduate Academic Program Coordinator in the FABE department and advisors in the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences are also willing and able to help the student with questions, scheduling problems, course information, and problem-resolution as well. Information about Study Abroad programs are also readily available those students who are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

The CSM curriculum also includes a business core requirement in response to comments and requests from both students and future employers. A set of six business areas have been identified as areas beneficial to graduating construction managers and a short list of course choices were made available for each individual business area so the student can register for courses most interesting to him or her.

As students in a shrinking world CSM students are required to take two courses that introduce them to global issues in their curriculum. If the student chooses two such courses wisely, they could fulfill both of the global issues requirements and two other required categories of the GEs at the same time.

Students interested in CSM must note that starting with the course sophomore-level course, CSM 2440, a five-semester sequence runs through the senior-level capstone design course, CSM 4900. It is very much to the student’s advantage that he not delay joining the major once that decision has been made, the earlier, the better. The possibility does exist that the CSM curriculum could extend well beyond the expected four-year degree plan for some students who delay joining at any point beyond the freshmen year. It is not the practice of this department to allow students to skip over prerequisite courses unless there are very extenuating circumstances so this five-semester sequence should be taken into consideration when contemplating a change to this particular major.

To review the full curriculum for Construction Systems Management, click here: CSM Sheet.

To review the list of general education course choices available to CSM students, please click here: CFAES General Education Choices