Concept: A capstone is a supervised scholarly activity (unlike a lab or weekly classes) whereby students attend a series of meetings with the instructor of record to establish an initial direction that will be the focus or concept of the project along with the ongoing developments and future plans for the proposal. Once the proposal has been approved, the work is, i.e., unsupervised. The concept is developed throughout the program by gathering information, formulating ideas from the taking course of study. While the research and planning should be an ongoing endeavor, the capstone is usually executed during the summer session or in a semester following completion of all course work.

Objective: The capstone project is the culmination of knowledge and experience to be potentially transmuted into a presentation of your individual design. The goal of the capstone projects is to connect your project to issues or concepts in art education that a personal ‘areas of interest’ while also integrating the wide range of course work experience gathered throughout the MAT II program. Learning experiences from your own classroom along with research information from opportunities such as interviews, direct observations, or internships can be incorporated. These sources are to be the wellspring that this final project will emerge from. It will be considered a documentation of your expanded knowledge base, thus contributing to your personal, and professional growth as an elementary or secondary art teacher. Ultimately, its primary purpose is to enrich your classroom experience and impact your student learning by renewing your commitment as an art educator.

Process: Students are to select a topic of pursuit with guidance from of the MAT II Advisor in the field of education/art education that would enhance their pedagogy in the classroom. They are to reflect on the courses conduct research on the chosen subject documenting their findings by maintain a type of ‘portfolio’ of findings. Reflect on knowledge and experiences gained from course work and demonstrate its impact.

Contract Proposal for Capstone Project: When the concept is solidified (around the around the 4th or 5th semester in the program, each student will be asked to write a proposal on the concept of their project which will be turned in for approval. Once approved, a ‘contract’ listing the expectations will be established including the final ‘construct’ it will take. It is in the last semester that the capstone work begins and the work time is unsupervised.

Approach/Technique/Methodology: Because the ‘projects’ are personalized pathways, they can take a wide variety of formations to reflects the individually and creativity of the graduate student. This can be take any shape, but needs to be determined by the specific nature of the concept. The experience can take the form of a photographic series or documentation, a short film, or a multimedia presentation or at a professional presentation at a conference or events such as VAEA. It can include visual and written documentation from a summer internship with an arts related organization. One can choose studio art media both 2-D & 3 D to visually represent the journey. Online digital portfolios or e-portfolios can also be used as a demonstration of learning. They are in effect, a visual investigative enterprise designed to provide a richer and more accurate picture of what has been gained, supported
by material evidence of the students learning progress as well academic enlightenment. The final ‘product’ is to demonstrate their learning acquisition or conclusions.

**Advising:** A necessary component for a successful outcome in capstone endeavor is to maintain a strong communication with advisor. Students need to plan meet at least once a semester in order to provide an update on the progress and research made, as well as to make needed adjustments to the coursework or the scheduling of classes. Every attempt will be made to schedule on the days that the student is on campus for classes. The nature of the advising time is to guide the student in the direction chosen, through the process for suggestions, consultation and review of the progress at each stage.

*Students are only eligible for advising if that can demonstrate that progress has advanced in their research and planning or if they need guidance at a critical point in the process.*

**Capstone Advising:** For the final project, the instructor/adviser will meet with the student at the end of the semester (fall/spring summer) for the final planning/execution. The student at that time will provide a detailed description of project and discuss the choice of ‘presentation.’ At the beginning of the subsequent semester a time will be arranged to present to the MAT II cohort.

**Credits:** 1-2 credits- There has been a recent change in the credits for AVT 698. It was found necessary to create a range of credits because of adjustments to student academic plans, specifically with substitutions being made for the original course work create a change the number of credits. This has occurred especially with grad studio course AVT 500, a 4credit. When substituted for any other courses. For example, any CEHD courses that is 3 credits, an extra credit was needed to fulfill the 30 required program credits. Thus the one credit would be added to 698 making it a 1to 2-credit course. *

*(NOTE: AVT 698 is currently listed as 1credit.)*

**Substitutions:** As students progress though the program they do have options of substituting courses in order to select other course work that is move relevant to their professional needs. These changes can only occur first with the permission from with the program advisor/instructor. They must next follow up with the Academic Advisor, Nicole Brugnoli- Whipkey, <nbrugnol@gmu.edu> will officially make the changes to the curriculum plan.

**Credit/Contact Hours:** Because students will require from 1 – 2 credits hours for the completion of their required 30 credits degree program, the number of contact hour will vary depending in the designated credit. The following is the determination of the hours per credits.

**Graduate Credit:**

1 credit = 45 contact hours
2 credit = 90 contact hours

*NOTE:* Distribution of contact hours will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Course Enrollment Information:** Because AVT 698 is not weekly course, but a ‘supervised scholarly activity’; it is categorized as an independent study. This course will NOT be listed for enrollment in Banner. It is to be processed as an Independent Study/Directed Reading. An Individualized Section Form is to be filled out with the course title: Capstone Project and brought to the program coordinator (Mary Del Popolo) for signature.

The form can be found at [http://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/forms/individualized_section_form.pdf](http://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/forms/individualized_section_form.pdf). It will then required a secondary signature from the Art Department Chair, (Peter Winant) and College Dean, (CVPA, Associate Dean, Lisa Kahn).