

M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with Art Education/Visual Culture Emphasis
Capstone Project

You will choose option 1 or 2 to complete your capstone project:

Option 1: Capstone Paper (Theoretical Exploration)

For this capstone paper, you will identify and analyze a significant problem within art education or visual culture, particularly in urban contexts. The paper should:

1. **Introduction/Issue Selection:** · Choose one specific pressing issue facing art education or visual culture in urban environments. Elaborate on why this qualifies as an "important issue"—what makes it urgent, systemic, impactful, complex, or debate-provoking? · Provide context on the selected issue and summarize the key challenges it presents within urban art education or visual culture studies. · Establish your rationale for focusing this paper on the selected issue.
2. **Issue Analysis** · Analyze varying perspectives on the issue through a literature review. · As an art education or visual culture professional, analyze your perspective on the issue. How does it relate to your own experiences, beliefs, priorities, and vision for art education or visual culture education? · Synthesize literature from scholars that have varying points of view on this issue. Compare and contrast different stakeholder perspectives.
3. **Implication Assessment** · Draw directly from the selected issue and discuss the implications it carries for transforming and improving art education or visual culture education within urban school environments. · What changes to curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, policy, etc. could help address this issue and enhance art or visual culture learning? · Ground recommendations by connecting directly back to the realities of the focal issue.
4. **Literature Foundation** · Support analysis and discussion of the issue and its implications with at least 8-10 scholarly sources (articles, books, reports, etc.) directly relevant to the paper's focus issue and context.
5. **Original Contributions** · Demonstrate original connections across multiple literature viewpoints/arguments. · Provide your own examination around translating the issue into pedagogical/policy implications.

Length Requirements: · Body: 2500-3000 words · Full paper (including references): 3500 words maximum

Grading Rubric

To receive a passing grade, the paper must earn at least 13 out of 18 total points based on the criteria below:

Scoring Criteria (4 points each):

1. Responsiveness to Prompt (5 as listed)

- 4 points: Addresses 100% of required paper components
- 3 points: Addresses over 80% of required paper components
- 2 points: Addresses over 70% of required paper components
- 0-1 point: Addresses under 70% of required paper components

2. Command of Literature

- 4 points: Demonstrates deep understanding of key urban art education literature
- 3 points: Demonstrates sufficiently broad understanding of key literature
- 2 points: Demonstrates some knowledge of literature
- 0-1 point: Demonstrates minimal knowledge of key literature

3. Analysis and Argument

- 4 points: Takes clear position supported by convincing evidence synthesis and coherence
- 3 points: Takes position using some passive voice/quotations with organized evidence
- 2 points: Takes equivocal/multiple positions with related but insufficiently synthesized evidence
- 0-1 point: Takes unclear position with little organized evidence or analysis

4. Integration of Literature

- 4 points: Shows skillful, relevant use of sources integrated throughout synthesis
- 3 points: Consistent integration of credible sources; synthesizes sources
- 2 points: Uneven integration of sources; segments rely on single sources
- 0-1 point: Minimal credible source use; relies heavily on single sources

5. APA Style

2 points:

- Follows all APA 7th edition formatting for in-text citations and reference list
- Demonstrates clear, concise writing style
- Free of grammar/syntax/spelling errors

0-1 point:

- Does not adhere to key APA guidelines
- Writing lacks clarity
- Contains significant grammar, syntax, or spelling mistakes

Option 2: Capstone Project on Classroom Art Teaching

(Recommended Length: 3000 words)

Project Description:

This capstone paper will explore an issue in art education of your choice through literature review, and document navigation of that issue in your own classroom teaching practice. For example, you may choose to focus on the issue of culturally responsive art education.

The literature review (recommended length: 1000 words) will provide background on theoretical frameworks and best practices related to your chosen issue in art education. For a paper on culturally responsive teaching, this would encompass researching scholarly perspectives on strategies like diversifying subject matter and represented artists, incorporating folk arts/crafts reflective of student cultures, facilitating collaborative community-based arts projects, and guiding students to produce works exploring their identities.

The classroom documentation portion (recommended length: 1500 words) will capture through first-hand narrative your own evolving approaches to addressing the issue in your teaching context, including areas of success and ongoing challenges. This may involve documentation of lesson planning, unit sequencing, classroom display rotations, student project facilitations, and student interviews reflecting on your teaching.

The analysis portion (recommended length: 500 words) will focus on connecting scholarly theories from the literature to your documented classroom experiences, highlighting areas of alignment and tension between ideals and realities. Discussion will center on implications both for advancing theoretical understanding of effective pedagogical approaches as well as providing sound, practical advice for instructors exploring similar issues.

Evaluation Rubric (Passing score: 20 out of 30):

- Synthesis of academic literature (8-10 scholarly sources) on chosen issue (0-5 points)
- Multifaceted first-hand documentation process (0-5 points)
- Critical analysis theory vs. own practice (0-5 points)
- Balance theoretical connections and practical insights (0-5 points)
- Attention to protocols for human subjects research (0-5 points)
- Emphasis on advisement for art education field (0-5 points)