ATEC Capstone Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Capstone Project?
ATEC 4380 – Capstone is a culmination project under a faculty member’s supervision in Arts and Technology. Students will engage in the creation of an advanced creative and/or research project of their own choosing exploring the interaction of the arts with digital technology. This course is restricted to students majoring in Arts and Technology who are within 30 credit hours of graduation.

Is Capstone required to graduate?
Yes. It is a major upper-level requirement for the ATEC degree plan.

When should I take my Capstone?
Your Capstone must be taken within the last 30 hours of your degree program. If you are adequately prepared for your project, you may enroll in Capstone the semester before you plan to graduate.

How do I decide on a Capstone Project idea?
Consider the following questions:
- What is my focus area within ATEC?
- What type of job would I like to pursue?
- What have I learned to do well?
- What courses have I completed successfully?
- What is missing from my portfolio?
- What do I want to show potential employers?

While you may learn new skills while working on your Capstone, this is not an appropriate time to try to learn a new technical skill. Your Capstone Project should incorporate skills, techniques, or programs that you are already familiar with. Treat this project as the jewel of your portfolio. You are encouraged to discuss your ideas with fellow students and faculty. However, it is best to avoid approaching faculty and asking the dreaded question, “What should I do for my Capstone?”

How do I register for Capstone?
There are two separate tracks you may follow to register for Capstone:

1. **Capstone Independent Study** – The Capstone Independent Study allows you to have a faculty member supervise and critique your project on a one-on-one basis. You must ask the faculty member if they would be willing to supervise your project no later than **November 16**. You will need *at least* a semi-developed idea of what you’d like to do for your Capstone before you approach the faculty member. If you’d like to pursue this option, please ask your academic advisor for the **Capstone Independent Study Application**. Once your application is completed, turn it in to your academic advisor to be registered.

   If your focus area does not fall under either Games or Animation, you will need to register for the Capstone Independent Study.

2. **Capstone Course** – The alternate (and more common) option will be the Capstone Course, which will only be available if you are focusing on either animation or games. The Capstone Course will meet weekly during the semester and provide a structured, workshop setting to complete your Capstone Project. You will receive faculty, as well as student, feedback on your progress. You must contact your academic advisor to request registration into the Capstone Course. You will be registered for the Capstone Course section that matches your ATEC focus. The timing for the Capstone Course sections can be found on CourseBook once the schedule is posted.
Can I start working on my Capstone Project before I enroll in it?
Yes. You can begin work on your Capstone Project prior to your enrollment semester. In fact, some projects may require the completion of pre-production work, research, and/or other preparatory deliverables prior to enrolling in Capstone. However, you must have enough unfinished work so that you are continuing to work on your project throughout the semester you are enrolled in Capstone. Your Capstone cannot be completed prior to you enrolling in the course.

May I work with a partner or a group?
Yes, but this must be approved by your faculty supervisor. If you are pursuing the Capstone Independent Study, you must discuss this with your faculty supervisor prior to enrollment. If you are registering for the Capstone Course, you will need to discuss this with the instructor during the first week of the course. You must be enrolled in the same Capstone Course or Capstone Independent Study as your partner/group members.

What are the responsibilities of my Faculty Supervisor?
Your faculty supervisor is responsible for submitting your final grade for Capstone. They will provide guidance throughout your project and serve as your support and critic. It is not your faculty supervisor’s responsibility to:

- Determine your project idea, goals, objectives, or timeline
- Remind you of deadlines or meetings
- Check in with you to see how your project is progressing

It is your responsibility to clarify all questions with your faculty supervisor.

Can I fail Capstone?
Yes – and since it is required, you would have to retake the course in order to graduate.

I am interested in pursuing School of ATEC Major Honors. How do I do so?
Please check the ATEC website (http://www.utdallas.edu/atec/artstechnology/academics/resources/) or contact your academic advisor for the Major Honors Information handout. You will want to discuss your eligibility with your academic advisor as soon as possible. Do not wait until your graduating semester to look into Major Honors eligibility.

If you have any further questions, please contact your academic advisor.