Overview of project:
A Senior Capstone is to be completed first semester senior year or second semester senior year. All Dance emphasis students are required to complete a Capstone. The emphasis of your topic should be in education, choreography, outreach or performance. It could also be a continuation of your Independent Study.

A Performance Capstone consists of a 10 page paper, journal and a 5 to 7 minute performance or demonstration.

A Written Thesis is a 25-30 page research paper without a performance component. A journal does not need to be submitted.

Aim of project:
The aim of your capstone is to choose a topic you can research, investigate and dissect. Your topic should be connected to the path you wish to pursue after you achieve your under graduate diploma.

Choosing topic:
Some topic suggestions are; choreography, assistant choreography, performance, dance therapy, business ownership or dance education at the elementary or secondary level. Your topic should be directly related to your specific area of interest in dance.

Topic Approval:
A written proposal must be submitted by the first week of the semester to all 4 members of the dance faculty. An electronic proposal is acceptable.

Evaluation:
A rubric will be given at the start of the project. You are required to select a primary advisor. All other dance faculty will be present and involved in the grading of you independent study.

Steps:
Submit Proposal
Proposal Acceptance
Choose a Primary advisor
Research or begin choreography
Organize your daily journal
Actively work on your research paper during the course of the semester
Final Performance/Demonstration

Due Date: All Capstone materials must be presented, performed and passed in by the FIRST DAY OF FINAL EXAMS AT 12:00 PM.
Proposal Criteria:
Define the focus of your Capstone (education, outreach, choreography or performance).
Submit a request for rehearsal space, performance space, or venue.

We encourage the venue to be on campus, but you may ask for an off-site opportunity in your proposal. The faculty reserves the right to deny an off-site request.
A list of materials that will be needed and used for your Capstone should be included.
A proposal should be submitted by the first week of the semester.

Journal Criteria:
Frequent entries throughout the semester detailing how you write and organize your choreography, syllabus or rubric development, or an outline of your presentation/demonstration.
Self-Evaluation. What is working in your process and what isn’t?
Conclusion summarizing your success and failures.

Paper Criteria:
If you are doing a performance and a paper, the paper should be 10 pages. It should follow the guidelines of a Thesis. Thesis guidelines are listed below.
All online research must be .org or .edu resources.
Bibliography is required with in text citation.
The faculty will only accept hard copy research papers.

Performance Criteria:
Choreographed pieces must be 5 to 7 minutes in length.
Demonstrations, Presentations or Performances must occur on site. (The Newman Dance Studio, The Hennessy Theater or The Johnson Theater). Off- site requests must be included in your proposal and approved by the dance faculty.
All costumes, set design, and construction of materials must be provided by the student.

All projects and paper work must be submitted by FIRST DAY OF EXAMS AT 12 PM.

Exit Interview:
All students will meet with their advisors when they submit their project for an exit interview. This discussion will include what you learned from your process, and what your plans for future are. It will also give the you an opportunity to ask your professors any questions.

What is a Thesis?
A Thesis is an inquiry. It begins with an introduction that states the intention of your paper. Identify your topic and explain why it is relevant. Your thesis inquiries or questions should be stated in your introduction. Explain in your introduction how you will investigate your topic. Articulate your methodology. Answer the questions of what you have done, what you have discovered why it matters, the implications for future studies in dance and possible directions for the future.
The Body of your Thesis Should Contain:

An Abstract: Your abstract states that which your thesis is about, how you went about the process and what it concludes. Use key words that are relevant to your Thesis.

Acknowledgements: It is always important to recognize those have helped you along the way.

A Formal Cover page, introduction, and a table of contents.

Correct citation: MLA citation is suggested. In text citation is expected. Works Cited is required. You could also include graphs, photos, links etc. at the end of the document.

The Purpose of Your Thesis:

A Thesis uses thesis questions to provoke thought. These questions should be answered by drawing your own conclusions and parallels through your research. The paper should contain a driving force that forces you to answer these questions through your research.

A Thesis forces you to determine the relevance of your art and the relevance your art has in history. It investigates what others have claimed about your art. You should gather this research and use it to inform your investigation.

Your methodology is the “HOW”? “How” do you answer these questions?
A Thesis should be thoroughly supported with researched information, interviews, charts or graphs. No stone should be left unturned. It is a culmination of your four years at UNH. The end result is hopefully NEW KNOWLEDGE to better prepare you for the future ahead.