

CGSP Resolution 2007 - 2008C
Resolution for Establishment of the Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Technologies
Degree in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

Approval by Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies:	April 2, 2008
First Reading at University Council:	April 21, 2008
Approved by University Council:	May 5, 2008
Approved by the President:	May 5, 2008
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	August 25, 2008
Effective:	Fall 2009

WHEREAS, Creative Technologies is a newly conceived interdisciplinary approach that merges creative technology with arts, design, science and technologies; and

WHEREAS, Programs that marry the arts and technology support creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving necessary to meet the demands of a 21st century marketplace; and

WHEREAS, The College of Architecture and Urban Studies has no current program that permits professionals whose careers or interests lie in efforts to integrate design perspectives, advanced career preparation and exposure to various aspects of creative technologies; and

WHEREAS, Professional advancement in most governmental agencies and in firms representing technology, science and the humanities is generally based on accomplishment and merit; and

WHEREAS, Professionals who hold Master's degrees in such agencies and organizations are generally viewed as more competitive for promotions than less trained peers; and

WHEREAS, A recent report by the Technology Alliance reported that startup technology firms are not able to recruit sufficient talent because of inadequate degree production; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 40,000 projected employment openings nationally in 2009 that will require advanced degrees; and

WHEREAS, Graduate programs in the area of Creative Technologies are at a deficit; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for a MFA two year degree in Creative Technologies consisting of 60 credit hours of graduate level courses in an on-campus, residential format; and

WHEREAS, The proposed degree will include a minimum of 18 hours in a specialization, 9-12 hours of art history and studio courses, 18 hours of creative technologies and electives in other disciplines and 12 hours specifically designated toward a final thesis; and

WHEREAS, Program success benchmarks will be based on a series of state, institutional and program criteria that take into account the guidelines established by the College Arts Association and will include the number of applicants, graduation rates, relevant job placement rates within 5 years of graduation, positive testimonials from employers, awards, prizes and residencies of graduates, contributions in art and design journals and conference presentations and recognition of submitted works by professional organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the proposal for a Masters in Fine Arts degree in Creative Technologies in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies be approved and the proposal forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) for approval.