THE LEARNING PORTFOLIO

Reflective Practice for Improving Student Learning and Lifelong Career Success in Health Professions

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The Learning Portfolio: What Is It?

- A flexible, evidence-based process that combines reflection and documentation.
- A way of engaging students in ongoing, reflective, and collaborative analysis of learning.
- A means of focusing on purposeful, selective outcomes for both improving and assessing learning.

-Adapted from The Learning Portfolio (Jossey-Bass, 2009)
The Learning Portfolio
Reflection + Documentation + Mentoring = Learning!
SUCCESSFUL USES OF LEARNING PORTFOLIOS
Role of Reflection in “Deep” or “Significant” Learning


Surface Knowledge

Reflection
Experience
(Active Learning)

Deep or Significant Learning
Sample Questions for Student Reflection

- What?
- When?
- How?
- Difference?
- Valuable?
- Continual plan?
- . . . Why?
## The Importance of Selectivity: An Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement</td>
<td>Development, reflective inquiry, focus on goals, philosophy of learning</td>
<td>Drafts, journals, online threaded discussion, emails, statement of goals, classroom assessments, research notes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## The Importance of Selectivity: 2nd Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job Search</td>
<td>Career preparation, versatile skills, ambitions, potential for future contributions, flexibility</td>
<td>Showcase projects, writing &amp; communication, résumé, awards, references, internship evals., certifs., transcript, reports/logs, compl. programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Self-Assessment

Self-Assessment exercises help you examine who you are and where you are headed. Start with one listed below or come up with your own. After completing an exercise, reflect on what you have learned about yourself and how you might apply what you have learned to your goals and plans. You may want to place the exercise and your responses in your portfolio or maybe just your reflection. Since you and your portfolio are ever changing, you are encouraged to revisit the self-assessment stage periodically.

- **Ask yourself WHY?**
- **What have you done, what did you learn and how will you grow?**

**Ask yourself WHY?**

Why? Getting to where you are right now was based on a series of choices. What was your rationale for making one decision or choice over another? What were the consequences of those decisions?

1. Why did you decide to go to college?
2. Why did you decide to come to Albion College?
3. Why did you decide (or have you not yet decided) to pursue a particular major, concentration or discipline?
4. Why did you select the courses in which you are currently enrolled?
5. Why did you join your organizations, clubs, and groups?
Introduction to ePortfolio

Congratulations you are starting your ePortfolio! Your ePortfolio will be a unique presentation of your educational career at LaGuardia as you build your website over the next few semesters. The ePortfolio is a unique tool that will allow you to merge your personal and professional goals, putting your education into a larger context.

The first step in building an ePortfolio is to explore how other students have created their ePortfolios. Once you get a sense of what an ePortfolio can look like, and the kind of information they usually provide, you are ready to begin.

A good next step is collecting materials from your classes. You will want to create a virtual archive (an online file cabinet) of materials that you can later select as samples of your coursework in your ePortfolio.

Next, you will want to think about your educational past, present and future. You will want to reflect on the meaningfulness of the work that you have selected to display.

> How can you use class projects such as papers and presentations to show what you are learning?
The Professional Portfolio

What is Portfolio?

- A portfolio is a collection of materials (documents, papers, pictures, certificates, letters, work samples, and audio/video taped performances) assembled to demonstrate to others what you have done and/or are able to do.
- Your portfolio contains documents such as your resume, statements, letters, pictures, and records that "showcase" your skills and abilities.
- It states your learning goals, action planning, reflections and work samples that document progress.
- It can contain curricular and extra-curricular learning experiences through your university experience.

Click here for a sample portfolio.

Why Do I Need a Portfolio?

- Provides a valuable learning experience.
- Helps you to set your goals and evaluate how you are doing.
- Excellent for future use (job interviews, promotions etc.)
What are Portfolios?

Electronic portfolios can help facilitate students' reflection on their own learning. Portfolios include posting artifacts in any form (written, audio, visual, video, etc.) to highlight academic work of the student. In addition, reflections are posted in relation to each artifact to help the student attain more awareness of the learning strategies and needs they have to complete their studies. Some portfolios may include an academic planning piece to help academic advisors guide students through their learning environment. Community involvement, resumes, and collections of evidence and reflections of learning all may be included in portfolios. The use of an electronic portfolio has been proven to lead to better learning outcomes in specific areas of study. Portfolios are an ongoing learning record of a particular student’s academic learning progress.

iFolio is a learning portfolio, a ‘rich, flexible document that engages students in continuous, thoughtful analysis of their learning: (Zubizaretta, 2004). First, students place coursework, or artifacts, into iFolio to illustrate their academic accomplishments. Students then reflect on artifacts and courses to demonstrate their grasp of learning objectives. Instructors utilize artifacts and reflections to assess their teaching strategies. This assessment instrument will assist with future accreditation efforts as well as guide departments as they evaluate their programs.

Ask yourself these four questions:

How do you encourage student reflection?
How do you fulfill your department’s programmatic goals?
How do you shape students’ academic paths?
How do you prepare students for their future?

Students who are asked to create a portfolio through the University portfolio system should follow all departmental guidelines as outlined by their advisor and instructors.
North Carolina

CPD Learning Portfolio

REFLECT

RECORD & REVIEW

PLAN

EVALUATE

ACT

A tool developed to assist pharmacists as they plan, record, and reflect upon their learning initiatives.
Saskatchewan Pharmacists Learning Portfolio
Continuing Professional Development for the 21st Century

SASKATCHEWAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION
How Does LP Enhance Learning?

- Power of Reflection
- Collaborative Learning
- Creative Assessment
- Learning Styles
- Writing = Learning
- Selectivity, Judgment, and Responsibility
- Risk and Challenge
- Critical Thinking

Can you think of other ways?