

Technology Trends; Using Savvy Career Seeking Platforms in Practicum/Capstone  
Adapted for Lilly Teaching Conference - Anaheim, CA  
Ranelle Brew, Ed.D., MS, CHES ~ brewr@gvsu.edu  
Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI

## **E-Portfolios**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **What is an “ePortfolio”?**

For many years, health education departments have used professional portfolios to present evidence of the skill level of graduates. Most recently, these portfolios are quickly moving to electronic formats, allowing students to present work more dynamically through individual websites. Suggestions for platforms include:

[www.portfolium.com](http://www.portfolium.com)  
[www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com)  
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)  
[www.googlesites.com](http://www.googlesites.com)

to create such electronic portfolios.

#### **What’s the Purpose of Your ePortfolio?**

Your ePortfolio will demonstrate your competence in public health through evidence from your academic classes, service learning projects, volunteering, and practicum. Creating your ePortfolio will help you reflect upon and demonstrate the responsibilities and skills required for a masters level public health professional, and leadership, team, and communication skills gained from your program. Your ePortfolio can also showcase your ability to apply these skills in practice, and can serve as an electronic resume when you enter the job market.

Once you complete it, it will serve as a tool to demonstrate your overall mastery of your programs requirements/competencies.

#### **Where Do I Start?**

You will build your ePortfolio site during the practicum class, adding various skills. Most competencies or skills are summarized in the content from courses. Your personal ePortfolio is a template into which you place your own content. You have endless flexibility and freedom to make the site your own within the basic pre existing structure.

#### **The Process**

Here are some suggestions to guide you through the process.

- Reflect on what you have and are accomplishing in your academic program and in your career. The ePortfolio should not just be facts, but should show evidence of critical thinking. Without the reflective element, portfolios are merely an enhanced electronic

resume, web page, or a digital scrapbook. Reflection can turn your ePortfolio into evidence of a deeper learning experience.

- Collect evidence for your electronic portfolio. Organize your work (papers, PowerPoint presentations, digital images, and so on). For example, you might want to create folders for each skill on your computer and store relevant files in each folder. Then, when you are working on your portfolio, you can easily select the most relevant documents.
- Be selective rather than exhaustive. Make sure to be clear and concise—supplying all the relevant information without overwhelming your readers, highlighting your best work, and providing a clear and powerful illustration of your abilities and convictions.
- Go back over previous classes. Create the competency sections from material you have learned.
- A beautiful site is nice, but content is *more important*. Work on content first. Once you have your content well in place, you can start to work on esthetics.
- Be creative. Feel free to include quotes, images, and even audio or visual features.
- Look at other ePortfolios—as many as possible—for ideas and inspiration.
- Share your portfolio with your faculty, the communities you serve, your family and friends, *and* potential employers. You can give your URL to anyone who you want to see your work. After you finish your program you can continue to update and change your site.
- Consider what you want people to come away with after viewing your ePortfolio. Perhaps think about a theme to tie your site together. Examples include a commitment to women’s health, or specific work within a community. Remember, this is *your* site. Personalize it; make it relevant, compelling, and authentic to whom you are and what you are most passionate about.

## **EPORTFOLIO ORGANIZATION**

Although each is customizable, all are based upon a standardized template, which has the following organization.

1. Introduction/Title page
2. Professional Mission Statement
3. Resume
4. Experiences in XXX Classes
5. Practicum/Internship
6. Research Project
7. XXX Skills
  - a. Professional Presentations & Papers
  - b. Civic Engagement
  - c. Personal Strengths & Abilities
8. XXX Program Overview

- a. Program Mission
- b. Innovative Features
- c. XXX Curriculum

## **EPORTFOLIO CONTENT SUGGESTIONS**

### **1. Introduction/Home Page (100-150 words)**

This is the first page people will see when they arrive at your site. It is an opportunity for people to get to know you and what you're about. In creating the introduction, think about the connections that run in your professional and, perhaps, personal life. Are you focused on one issue? Are you more interested in strategies and policies? Does a theoretical foundation drive you?

This section should be brief but descriptive. It should set the tone for your site and provide users with a quick view into the content/philosophy of your XXX work.

### **2. Professional Mission Statement (50-75 words)**

This mission statement should be concise and direct, and should be connected to your introduction in some manner.

**Help and examples:** <https://www.livecareer.com/quintessential/creating-personal-mission-statements>

### **3. Resume**

In this section, copy in and/or attach your resume and feel free to include any relevant information you want to emphasize, such as contact details, awards, and so forth. You may also want to link directly to your Linked-in profile, or any other professional sites.

### **4. Program Experiences**

**There are two parts that you will need to compose:** description of the experience and a reflective statement about the experience.

#### **Reflective statement (100-150 words)**

The reflective statement should be a reflection *on your own thoughts and understanding of a particular experience.*

### **5. Practicum/Internship**

**There are two main sections that you will need to compose:** description of the experience and a reflective statement about the experience.

### **6. Research Project**

- i. Background/Overview of Project
- ii. Methods
- iii. Findings
- iv. Recommendations

- v. What challenges emerged in this project?
- vi. What is the value/benefit of the project to the field of public health?

If these headings do not match up with your work, use suitable headings of your choosing. **BE SURE to include all relevant documents in your evidence sections.**

## 7. Programmatic Skills

In this section, you spell out your thoughts about leadership and emphasize your own skills as leaders. This page includes a number of sub-pages: Professional Presentations & Papers, Civic Engagement, and Personal Strengths & Abilities. In each case, you can include descriptions of your accomplishments and abilities as needed. *Describe what the skill is, how it's used, and its role/value in the field.* The statement should illustrate your personal understanding of a skill and perhaps your deeper philosophy of it. Keep in mind that this section can and in fact should be brief. A single very well written paragraph is fine. If you have attended or presented at national conferences, make sure to include that information here.

**BE SURE to include all relevant documents in your evidence sections.**

---

Adapted from *Handbook (v. 2005-13) for MPH @ SF State created by Cox, R., Magee, C., Arista, P., & Craig, D.*

---

Examples:

[https://bu.digication.com/elena\\_moroz\\_porfolio/Bio/](https://bu.digication.com/elena_moroz_porfolio/Bio/)

<https://sites.google.com/a/g.clemson.edu/tylergraham/>