Number Responding: 2 (as of 1/3/8)

DIRECTIONS:

I. Please indicate your response to the following 7 questions by choosing one option for each question AND by providing comments:

1. How helpful was your advisor’s guidance in completing a successful portfolio experience?
   Helpful - 3
   Not helpful - 1
   Comments
   Too many things were left to the student’s interpretation, but when it came down to it, the professors had very specific expectations that they did not communicate very well at all. This led to much revising and frustration on the part of the students.

   Dr. Taylor seemed to understand the expectations from the beginning. Although she guided me the entire program, there was always the expectation that I would need to create the portfolio myself and come up with the goals and objectives from my own expectations.

   My advisor was there every step of the way, which helped because I had no examples of past portfolios to look at.

2. Did you attend an orientation for the portfolio experience?
   Yes - 4
   No

3. If you did attend an orientation for the portfolio experience, how helpful was it to you?
   Helpful
   Not helpful - 4
   Comments:
I thought it was helpful until I talked to my advisor about it and then I was just frustrated and confused. My advisor’s expectations were slightly different than most of the information which was told to me during the orientation. And I wasn’t made aware of this until a few days before my presentation. It all worked out in the end but it was very stressful preparing for something based on what I was told at the orientation only to find out something different was expected of me.

I did not feel that the orientation gave me very much of an understanding of what was expected. In addition, some of the criteria was changed after the initial orientation.

It was obvious no one knew what they were talking about. All it was is various instructors reading the portfolio manual, which I could have done on my own. Next time, give examples and talk about what is a good example and what is not.

4. How helpful was the SLIS Portfolio Guidelines handbook in completing a successful portfolio experience?

Helpful - 4

Not helpful

Comments

It was helpful, but it did not accurately reflect what the professors actually expected.

The guidelines handbook should be condensed because it can get lengthy and confusing for some people. Also, everyone in the SLIS program needs to get on the same page about expectations for the portfolio. Since I was the first to present my portfolio, I understand it was sort of a trial for everyone. But now that I and several others have successfully completed the portfolio, everyone should agree on what worked, what didn’t, what needs to be changed, etc.

It was very helpful with putting the portfolio together the last semester before it was defended.

It told me exactly what to include and even provided me the check list by which it would be evaluated; those two things were invaluable to the creation of my portfolio.

5. How helpful was the portfolio experience in reassessing your career goals as you moved through the SLIS program?
Helpful - 3
Not helpful - 1

Comments:

I already knew what I was going to do with my degree and the portfolio process did not change that.

The attempt to understand and put together a portfolio forced me to reassess my goals each time I worked on my portfolio. As I went through the program, my goals became more focused on a specific direction toward my future career.

It forced me to think constantly about what I was doing and where I wanted to go.

6. How helpful was the portfolio experience in preparing you for entering a professional career?

Helpful - 4
Not helpful

Comments:

It did allow me to reflect on the things I learned, but the final product that I turned in was completely different than what I started with because of the many revisions required. I was happier with the first product and feel the final product only reflects the professor’s expectations, rather than my personal experience.

I’ll need a portfolio for state certification as well, so the portfolio was the best choice for me. It helped me synthesize everything I learned in the SLIS program and I’m glad I chose this option.

It made me realize how everything I’ve learned at the school applies to my job and to future jobs.

7. Now that you have completed the portfolio experience, was your advisor’s guidance accurate in reflecting the nature of the portfolio experience?

Yes - 3
Comments:

My advisor’s guidance was to make this mine. It was to reflect me and what I learned. If that were actually the case, my first product would have been accepted.

My advisor’s guidance was the most helpful tool I had; even though I didn’t get a whole lot of it, the advice I was given was short and sweet and helped me focus on what exactly I was doing for the portfolio and for my presentation.

I believe it was. Throughout most of the program, her guidance seemed very vague. Now that I’m finished, I understand that it was vague because I needed to figure out what the portfolio was and how I would use it to show my growth through the program.

My advisor was there for me every step of the way in providing guidance on what to do and how to possibly go about doing it. She always offered helpful suggestions.

II. Please provide your answers to the following 4 questions.

8. On average, about how many hours each semester did you spend working on the portfolio and/or the portfolio presentation?

Five

I spent many hours indirectly working on the portfolio because each course I took helped me with the portfolio. Every course was beneficial in creating the portfolio, writing my goals and objectives, and finding my strengths and weaknesses. I couldn’t even try to put a number on it.

10 hrs. That wasn’t enough. I should have been spending more time on it each semester.

About 30 or 40.

9. For you, what was the most beneficial aspect of the portfolio experience?

Being done with it

Being able to synthesize my thoughts and things that I learned; having to re-read papers I had written in each class I took was helpful.
To evaluate where I was headed in my professional career. I could see where a better understanding of the portfolio could have given me more direction through my graduate courses, however.

*It gave me the chance to really reflect on where I want to go in the future.*

10. What part of the portfolio experience did you like the most? Why?

I enjoyed presenting my final portfolio to the panel because it gave me the chance to synthesize everything I learned throughout the program into one outlet. It helped me identify my weaknesses and what I need to work on for my future career.

I think actually putting it together at the end of the program was what I liked the most. I felt a huge accomplishment when I finally got to the end of the program and could see the growth from where I began to where I was during the last semester.

*Passing the presentation! Oh, and getting to reflect on courses, professional issues, and career choices.*

11. What suggestions do you have for improving the portfolio experience?

Either line out exactly what is expected or, if you say you want creativity and individuality reflected in the portfolio, actually do that and don’t force everyone to conform to the same standard.

The process as a whole seems unclear. I felt my advisor told me one thing (which I did because obviously she was going to be there when I presented) and the practice session told me something completely different. I believe it is still unclear what formats are acceptable for the portfolio. I chose a website because I believed it to be mandatory. It seems that students presenting after me were given the option of any digital format (PowerPoint, etc). The requirements also seemed a bit redundant and confusing.

If I were asked this at any point during the program, I would have said to have an example of what the SLIS department wanted as far as a completed portfolio. However, having to develop it without the advantage of an example forced me to examine exactly what my goals were of myself and for the program. It is very difficult to go through the program knowing something was expected of you and you have no idea about the expectations.

*Offer examples of portfolios! It would have made this whole experience much easier! And provide portfolio building software... if you’re offering the option the school should provide adequate resources.*