DIRECTIONS:

1. Please indicate your response to the following 6 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- 2**

   **Comments**

   She was always very willing to answer questions and helped me out a great deal with formatting, especially with the self-assessment.

   Since I switched advisors midway through the process, my new advisor was really helpful with structuring the portfolio and revising.

2. Did you attend a face-to-face or view a video orientation for the portfolio experience? (please circle all that apply)

   **Yes, I attended a face-to-face portfolio orientation.**

   **Yes, I viewed the online video portfolio orientation.**- 1

   **No-I did not attend a face-to-face portfolio orientation.**- 2

   **No, I did not view an online video portfolio orientation.**- 1

3. If you did attend an orientation for the portfolio experience, how helpful was it to you?

   **Helpful- 1**

   Not helpful

   **Comments:** No response.
The videos I watched were good, it was helpful to hear from other students who had done a portfolio. I especially appreciated their comments about how much time I’d need to set aside for working on it.
3. How helpful was the SLIS Portfolio Guidelines handbook in completing a successful portfolio experience?

Helpful- 1

Not helpful-

Comments:

The one I downloaded from the website apparently was outdated, and was not very clear at all. I informed Dr. Martens of my questions, which were mostly ones that asked for clarification of the handbook’s very confusing instructions. She agreed that the one online was outdated and said she would take my questions to the committee to be clarified for the next handbook.

It was very useful to have the guidelines available when I ran into writers block type situations. And for keeping in mind all the pieces I needed to include.

4. How helpful was the portfolio experience in reassessing your career goals as you moved through the SLIS program?

Helpful- 2

Not Helpful

Comments:

I thought it was nice to go back and look at what I had done last year and then think about how it reflected on my goals, but since I had been modifying my goals all along, it wasn’t a major part of my reassessment.

Since I wasn’t really sure what type of library I wanted to work in during my first year in SLIS, the portfolio process and reflections needed to do the portfolio helped me decide on the public library track. I was able to put what I was learning in my classes into specific goals related to my future career by doing the portfolio.
5. How helpful was the portfolio experience in preparing you for entering a professional career?

Helpful- 1

Not helpful- 1

Comments:

Unless someone from a future job asks to see this from me, I don’t see how this really helped my goals. The sole exception was what happened in my defense because I was able to talk through my goals and accomplishments, which helped me put those into writing better.

It helped me keep in mind the kind of thing I’d be doing in the workplace as I progressed through my classes and reflected on what I’d learned as I worked on the portfolio. It also gave me practice with doing presentations and designing websites-how they look.

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

Yes- 2

No

Comments

She told me what to expect in the defense and what specific components the committee would be on the look out for. She was also very helpful when I got panicky about finishing on time or the quality of what I had produced for the portfolio.

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

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

I didn’t spend any time on this until my final semester. I’d estimate I spent about 10-12 hours compiling the portfolio, writing the self-assessment, and getting the site I used set up. I also spent about 2 hours revising my portfolio after my defense. I spent about an hour preparing for the presentation.
The first few semesters I didn’t work on it much, probably a couple of hours to choose my samples and write some brief reflections. From the middle to the end, I spent a lot more time on it - several hours a day during the last 2 weeks of each semester. I think I spent a total of about 3 months intensively working on the portfolio.

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

Answering the questions asked at my defense. They were really thought provoking.

Being able to reflect in depth on what I gained from academic experiences and how these will help me on the job in the future. Being able to take my development towards being a competent librarian.

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

Defending it, honestly. I really enjoyed having a conversation about the experiences I had.

I like putting the website together- having this big document of my progress through the program is really cool. I also liked the reflective nature of the portfolio- I think I benefitted from this much more than I would have if I’d taken comps.

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

I would update and clarify the instructions in that handbook. I would also recommend that you tell students to get familiar with Google Sites, Wikispaces, etc. as trying to learn how to use those sites to get the portfolio online can be extremely time consuming if they don’t have prior experience in using them. If I hadn’t already known how to use Google Sites before I even started putting this portfolio online, it easily would have taken me over 15 hours just to get the portfolio online.

Some of the required components seemed less important to me- like the advisement history, and the leadership potential part. I’d have had less stress if these weren’t required. I also thought it was odd that I needed to have it completed so early in the semester- which means my reflections on the courses I took in my last semester weren’t as well done/developed as the rest.