Portfolio Experience – Student Survey Form Student Responses-Spring 2013

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 = 3

Not helpful = 0

Comments

My advisor helped me to create a meaningful site that I am proud to share with potential employers and others in the profession.

I would not have been able to successfully complete my portfolio without the aid of my advisor. She provided insight and encouragement throughout the process.

My advisor was very helpful. She offered just the right amount of guidance and subtle feedback that I was truly able to make the portfolio my own and not a carbon copy of other portfolios.

EXTREMELY Helpful.

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

Face to Face:
Yes = 1
I attended a face-to-face portfolio orientation (in my 2009 LIS 5033 class)

Video:
Yes = 1
I viewed the online video portfolio orientation. – I did

No = 1 (I did not attend a face-to-face portfolio orientation.)
No, I did not view an online video portfolio orientation.
The only orientation I attended was the initial SLIS orientation, but the End of Program Assessment options were discussed. If that's what this question is asking, it was helpful.

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

Helpful = 2

Not helpful

Comments:

I had an idea that the portfolio was the way for me to go but seeing the three options (comps, portfolio, and thesis) represented together helped for me to understand each and questions about each were answered. It was very helpful for this to be face-to-face.

I used the guidebook to make sure I had covered all the necessary areas.

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

Helpful = 2

Not helpful

Comments:

It was helpful but there are a few areas where it could be updated. We no longer have to provide 3 or more cd’s and we don’t have to label each document (attachment) as Spring 2013 since they are housed on a website.

The Portfolio Guidelines Handbook was helpful, however, there is so much information scattered across the various portfolio forms that do not completely match, I found that I often missed putting in key requirements due to the criteria needed not being in sync.

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

Helpful = 3
definitely

Not helpful

Comments:
Taking the time to reflect on my coursework as well as areas I wanted to explore each semester was most helpful.

In fact, preparing the portfolio helped me to plan my courses and caused me to really think about what I want to do with my education when I graduated.

The portfolio experience kept me alert of what I was doing within the program and prompted me to look for and document experience that would aid in reaching my career goals.

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

Helpful = 3
Helpful for sure
Not helpful

Comments:

Although I haven’t gotten a professional job yet, the portfolio has gotten me 2 interviews, as I’ve been told by the Directors I’ve interviewed with.

The portfolio is a great option for those candidates who need to focus and evaluate their studies and goals. I believe this was helpful to me while preparing for my future.

It aided me in targeting my goals to what a potential employer might desire from an employee, helped me in looking at the overall picture of me as a future employee.

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

Yes = 3
No

Comments:

My advisor truly helped me get it right for graduation but also for future use.

My advisor’s advice was perfectly in tune with what I encountered.
The advice I remember most from the very first meeting with my advisor was that the reason to do the portfolio shouldn't be to get out of doing Comps, but to have something to show a potential employer, that it should be focused toward future employment.

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?

30 hours per semester – some less, some more.

I spent a few hours every semester, save my last one, making sure documents and records were kept to add to the portfolio website.

The first 3 semesters: about 10 hours a semester. The last semester, when I did my defense, probably 60 hours.

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

Learning to make the connections between what I have learned, and what I wish to do with my career has been eye opening. It was also helpful to understand how each goal tied to to the choices I made in a more formalized way.

reflecting back on the semester, observing how the course was targeted to helping students develop competencies.

Being able to put the portfolio together over time.

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

Regularly checking competencies. I really liked that because I could see actual progress toward my ultimate goal as a librarian, not just checking off classes as I completed them.

I enjoyed the process of building a website for my professional life, and found the entire experience rewarding. It was the most tech-centric option of the three presented, and showcased my abilities to work with professional writing, presenting and technical proficiency in front of a diverse committee.

Seeing the result. It feels great to see the end product and when I look back over it I get a great feeling of accomplishment.
10. What suggestions do you have for improving the portfolio experience?

Those who are considering it should realize that it is important to start collecting items at the beginning of their program. This causes you to think about the assignment topics and gives your entire educational experience a more focused end result.

I think creating a portfolio is a very powerful career-building experience. I don't think it's for everyone as an end of program assessment, but I do think it's something more people should do. I think what might hold many students back from choosing the option in the first place is the requirement to meet every single semester with their advisor. I know that's important, but if one semester (especially an early one) they can't meet they lose the option to do the portfolio, seems harsh, as well as that the decision MUST be made in the first semester. I would argue a student is capable of deciding as s/he progresses through the program and reviewing previous semesters once the decision is made and still creating a quality portfolio.

The only thing I could really suggest to improve the process is to require specific goal markers for the portfolio option within the program. Item X done by X semester etc. This would help students keep from being so overwhelmed in the end, and would conversely spread out the amount of time that could be used to get advice and progress through the required writing portions and web development. It would allow advisors to monitor progress in a concrete way, and if certain deadlines weren’t met in a satisfactory timeline, then the penalty could be that the portfolio option would no longer be attainable.