



Ensure That Portfolios Provide Evidence of Mastery

Portfolios are collections of student work that demonstrate their progress and achievement of learning objectives and course outcomes (Education Encyclopedia, n.d.). Student portfolios can be used in a single course or over the span of several courses to demonstrate student achievements in various skills and concepts. There are three forms of portfolios that are frequently used in higher education: showcase, working, and assessment portfolios.

Showcase Portfolio

Showcase portfolios usually display the best of students' performances (Education Encyclopedia, n.d.). These portfolios may be particularly helpful when students are developing skills that will directly assist them in interviewing for and participating in the world of work.

The table below includes sample courses and examples of student work that can be used in a showcase portfolio.

Course	Portfolio contents
Dance	Video clips and/or images of dance performances, specific moves, and/or choreographed work
Cooking	Images and/or videos of final product and/or cooking processes along with recipes, tips, and supplemental information that may be helpful to target audience (nonprofessional cooks, hiring chefs, etc.)
Graphic design	Images of completed design along with descriptions and when, where, or for what purpose the design can be used to achieve a desired outcome

Working Portfolio

Working portfolios often contain multiple drafts of the same project or assignment and serve as vehicles for instructor feedback while also demonstrating student progress (Education Encyclopedia, n.d.).

Working portfolios may work well for the following types of projects or assignments:

- Written work
- Presentations
- Designs (architecture, graphic design, UX design, etc.)
- Storyboards
- Research

Assessment Portfolio

An assessment portfolio offers a way of examining samples of student work to assess students' mastery of course outcomes and objectives (Education Encyclopedia, n.d.). Assessment portfolios usually contain samples of students' final drafts and should be tied back to the learning objectives or course outcomes that are being assessed.



The table below demonstrates examples of courses, learning objectives, and contents of students' portfolios.

Course	Learning objective	Portfolio contents
Biology 101	Trace a specific DNA sequence all the way to a protein	Written descriptions of students' process of tracing a specific DNA sequence all the way to a protein, citing sources from which the process was derived, and including images or diagrams to supplement their explanation of the process
Nursing	Describe an open-minded approach toward patients	A PowerPoint presentation explaining what an open-minded approach toward patients is and scenario-based examples of how this may be applied when working as a nurse with different patients
Spanish language	Speak persuasively in Spanish	Audio or video recordings of themselves speaking persuasively in Spanish

Source

Education Encyclopedia–StateUniversity.com. (n.d.). *Assessment: Portfolio assessment.*

<https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1769/Assessment-PORTFOLIO-ASSESSMENT.html>