Teaching Portfolios - Building Today for your Career Tomorrow

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Graduate School Lunch and Learn
December 10, 2012

Career Portfolios

- Include sample work and evidence of quality.
- Currently used in industry more often than in academia.
What is a Teaching Portfolio?

- Extend traditional CV and resumé.
- Show a multi-faceted view of teaching and professional experience.

What’s in a Teaching Portfolio?

Brainstorming

Image: UW Bothell Writing Center
Teaching Portfolio—Typical Contents

- CV or resumé
- Teaching materials
  - Teaching philosophy
  - Syllabi and assignments
  - Sample graded student work
  - Student evaluation excerpts
  - Teaching observation reports
- Honors and awards
- Sample publications
- Professional development descriptions

Further Advice

- Be SELECTIVE.
  - Choose your BEST work as representative.
- Be ORGANIZED.
  - Provide a table of contents or index.
- Be FORMAT AWARE.
  - Provide documents in universal formats.
- Writing, spelling and grammar MATTER.
  - This is a sample communication – your core business!
- ASK for feedback.
  - Advisors and peers can help.
Developing a Teaching Philosophy

- What is it?
  - 1-2 page essay, single spaced
  - Specific requirements and focus change with position
- Takes time and thought.
- Experience helps!
- Start now!

4 Questions to focus on

- Your statement should answer…
  - Why do you want to teach?
  - What objectives are most important?
  - What teaching methods work best—and why?
    - Think in terms of including ALL students
  - How will you measure student learning?
    - Assessment vs. "grading"
    - Satisfaction vs. learning

More detail — see:
Iowa State’s Center for Teaching and Learning Article on Teaching Philosophies
Further Advice

- Be CONCISE
  - Resist temptation to stretch page limits
- Be HUMBLE.
  - Good teaching takes experience and time to develop.
- RESEARCH the position and expectations.
  - Be sure your statement has the right focus, length, etc.
- Be HONEST.
  - Don’t say what you think they want to hear.
- Writing, spelling and grammar MATTER.
  - This is a sample communication – your core business!
- ASK for feedback.
  - Advisors and peers can help.

More detail – see Montell’s excellent Chronicle article:

Other places to go for inspiration

- University of Michigan
  - Rubric by (Kaplan, O’Neal, Meizlish, Carillo, and Kardia, 2005)
  - Examples
- Washington Univ in St.Louis
Where do you put it?

- Think SAFE but FLEXIBLE
  - Technology changes
    - Canvas may not be the LMS at your next institution.
    - PDF’s may not let you change what you need to change.
  - How public do you want this to be?

Possible places:
- Many "e-portfolio" sites like Rcampus
- More general – and free.. [Google Sites]
- Physical portfolio for some things.

For more portfolio ideas…

- [Vanderbilt University](http://www.vanderbilt.edu)
  or contact us for further discussion…
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