

## HDFS ePortfolio Road Map

### Overview

As an HDFS major, you are required to develop an ePortfolio that identifies your professional goals and incorporates artifacts that showcase your preparedness for accomplishing those goals. Typically, your goals will focus on obtaining an internship, gaining entry into graduate school or attaining a position of employment. Your artifacts will be examples of work that you select from your undergraduate experience to communicate with a professional audience how your college experience prepared you to meet your goals. Typically, you will begin developing your ePortfolio in HDFS 2030 – Professional Development and Ethics and you will finalize it in HDFS 4920 – Internship in HDFS.

### Why an ePortfolio?

The benefits of an ePortfolio include:

- Appreciation of how your undergraduate degree relates to your future goals
- Clarity in understanding yourself, who you are, what you want and what you have to offer
- Creation of a unified, coherent and professional story about yourself by identifying how your various undergraduate experiences connect with one another and support your professional goals
- Skills for developing a modern presentation of yourself and your qualifications through a website that is easily accessible by a professional audience

### Developing your Artifacts

To successfully finalize your ePortfolio in HDFS 4920, you will need to plan and collect artifacts beforehand. This Road Map will help you identify opportunities available in your HDFS major classes for developing artifacts for inclusion in your ePortfolio, although all of the artifacts may not be useful for your purposes. You will want to select artifacts based on your personal goals and the professional identity you plan to portray in the ePortfolio.

You will use your artifacts to represent yourself as a member of a professional audience and to provide evidence of who you are, what you know and how you are prepared to accomplish your goals. Reflect upon your experience by answering questions such as:

- What did you learn and how does it apply to your professional goals?
- What does your work show about you to a professional audience?
- How did you meet a challenge you encountered?
- How did or how could you use the information to solve problems?
- What would you do differently in the future based on your experience?
- How have you changed as a result of your experience?

An overview of HDFS major classes with opportunities for developing and collecting artifacts follows. Specific course assignments may vary depending upon the instructor. The general principles outlined, however, apply regardless of the specific assignment you complete. In developing artifacts for your ePortfolio, it will be most helpful if you focus your assignments on topics and areas related to your professional goals. For example, if you think your professional goals involve working with young children, complete a developmental assignment on that particular population rather than older adults. Make your course work meaningful and useful to you.

#### HDFS 2000 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Reflect on how the class expanded your understanding of relationship development, diversity, and factors that influence family well-being. Contextualize your learning by discussing how your classroom experience relates to your career goals and/or influenced your approach to working with children and/or families.

#### HDFS 2010/2013 LIFESPAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN FAMILY CONTEXT

Use your *Class Project* to demonstrate your ability to collect, present and think critically about a specific stage of human development. Hint: It will benefit you most if you complete your project on a developmental period related to your career goals, e.g. infancy, adolescence, adulthood, older adults.

#### HDFS 2030 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ETHICS

In this class, you will begin development of your ePortfolio. Many class assignments will help you in the process and they will be included in the first draft of your ePortfolio.

#### STAT 2040/2043 ANALYTICS FOR THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Disclose your ability to collaborate as a member of a team to create a work product. Summarize your *Research Project*, display your *Research Poster* and reflect on what you learned about research and how it applies to your professional goals.

#### HDFS 3010/3013 CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE FAMILY

HDFS 3010 offers several assignments you can use to demonstrate your ability to apply scientific knowledge to developmentally appropriate practice. Some of these assignments include: classroom *Observation*, the *Film Critique*, *Advice to a Friend* or *After-School/Child Care Activities*.

#### HDFS 3030 ADOLESCENT AND ADULT DEVELOPMENT IN THE FAMILY

Use your *Daily Insights* to show how classroom lecture influenced your thinking or enhanced your understanding of adolescents. The *Final Paper* is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your ability to apply scientific knowledge to real life situations involving adolescents.

#### HDFS 3040 HUMAN SEXUALITY OVER THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

You can use the *Reaction Papers*, *Film Critique* or *Literature Review* to demonstrate your learning about sexuality, changes in your personal attitudes and/or ability to apply scholarly information to this intimate aspect of human relationships.

#### HDFS 3060 PATTERNS OF FAMILY INTERACTION

Reflect on how the class expanded your understanding of family dynamics across the lifespan and strategies for promoting positive relationships within family systems. Contextualize your learning by discussing how your classroom experience relates to your career goals and/or influenced your approach to working with families.

#### HDFS 3080 DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

Reflect on what you learned about your own interpersonal communication style, the relational strengths you possess and how these apply to your performance as a professional. Provide examples of specific skills you learned and how they apply to professional practice. Use the *ePortfolio Reflection* assignment to contextualize the course in your ePortfolio.

#### HDFS 3460 EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE AND INTERACTION WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Reflect on how the knowledge you gained and the lab hours you completed contributed to your ability to work effectively with young children. Use your *Child Portfolio* to demonstrate your ability to complete a developmental assessment and your *Group Project* to convey your skills in redirecting children's behavior. Your *Final Evaluation* also can be a source of positive feedback on your ability to work effectively with young children.

#### HDFS 3470 LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Reflect on how your lab experience expanded your skills for working with young children. Use the classroom activities you created to convey your ability to implement developmentally appropriate curriculum. Your evaluations also can be a source of positive feedback on your ability to work effectively with young children.

#### HDFS 3910 PRACTICUM or HDFS 3930 SERVICE LEARNING IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

Discuss your responsibilities and what you learned about yourself, your profession and the population with which you worked. How did you apply classroom learning? What new skills did you gain? How did the experience contribute to your ability to be successful in accomplishing your professional goals?

#### HDFS 3980 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND STUDY or HDFS 4980 ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

Use your *Mid-semester Writing Assignment* to talk about the research project you assisted on. Incorporate your *Professional Presentation/Team Discussion* to show your understanding of confidentiality or professionalism. Use your *Final Paper* as a basis to review the tasks you completed, the skills you acquired, connect classroom learning with research and convey what you learned about conducting research. Your *Performance Evaluation* also can be used to reflect upon how you demonstrated a good work ethic and the ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

#### HDFS 4500 HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES/HDFS 4510 Therapeutic Play

In HDFS 4500, you can use course assignments to demonstrate your understanding of diagnosis, treatment and procedural preparation. In HDFS 4510, you can use your assignments to demonstrate your understanding of medical play and the coping concerns of children experiencing illness at various stages of development.

#### HDFS 4670 PARENT EDUCATION

You can highlight your research-based knowledge of parenting relationships through your *Parenting Paper* and your ability to develop and implement educational strategies to address common parenting concerns through your *Parenting Webpage* and *Group Presentation*.

#### HDFS 4680 FAMILY IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Reflect on how the course expanded your understanding of diversity and patterns of relating in families across cultures. Contextualize your learning by discussing how your classroom learning influenced your approach to working with children and/or families. Use your *Literature Review* paper to demonstrate your knowledge of a specific cultural group, preferably related to your career goals.

#### HDFS 4700 GENDER ROLES AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Use your *Reaction Papers* and *Literature Review* to demonstrate your knowledge of gender-issues and how they influence child development and family relationships across the life-span. Reflect on how the course influenced your thinking and your approach to working with children and/or families.

#### HDFS 5200 APPLIED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Your *Program Evaluation Paper and Presentation* can highlight your ability to design, implement and evaluate a family life education program that is relevant to children, teens and/or families. Reflect on what you learned in the course about intervention programs and how it relates to your professional goals.

#### HDFS 5300 HDFS AND SOCIAL POLICY

Reflect on what you learned in the course about how government legislation and policies affect families in modern day society. The *Local and State Issues Group Project* can highlight your ability to identify and analyze a specific policy and its impact on family life.

#### OTHER ARTIFACTS

You also can include artifacts from other academic courses, volunteer experience for which you did not register for credit, leadership positions in student organizations, academic lectures, programs or conferences you attended, travel abroad, employment, or any other experience that supports your professional goals and fits with your ePortfolio.

The types of artifacts you include in your ePortfolio are limited only by your imagination. Other types of artifacts you may incorporate into your ePortfolio include: photographs of yourself in a professional setting, PowerPoint presentations, Prezis, videos, blog entries, conference presentations, membership in professional organizations, certifications, links to Organizations' websites, etc.

## **Archiving Your Artifacts**

As you work toward completion of your final ePortfolio, you will need to set-up a system for saving and organizing your potential artifacts. Start this process early in your undergraduate career. You can use a hard drive, jump drive, Drop Box, iCloud, Google Drive or any other reliable means of storing your artifacts for later use. Having a back-up storage system can prevent loss of important information. Organizing your artifacts into meaningful categories, or groupings, also can be helpful. For example, you may want to use an organization or grouping system that reflects what you want to demonstrate about yourself and/or one that is consistent with the layout of your ePortfolio.

## **Selecting Your Artifacts**

As mentioned earlier, you probably will not use all of the artifacts you have archived. In selecting your artifacts, consider your professional goals and what you want to demonstrate about yourself. What skills, experience or learning do you want to convey? You also will want to consider your audience. Apply your empathy skills to target what your audience may want to see when evaluating how well you fit with their expectations. Every artifact included in your ePortfolio should be clearly related to your goals.

Keep in mind that your ePortfolio is a work in progress. You will want to add and possibly remove artifacts at various points of development. On-going development of your ePortfolio will minimize the amount of time you have to devote to it during your internship experience.

## **Contextualizing your Artifacts through Reflection**

Remember that artifacts do not stand alone. You will need to apply critical thinking through reflection to provide the reader with context for understanding why you included a particular artifact in the ePortfolio and how it applies to your professional goals. Never leave the audience wondering why you included an artifact in your ePortfolio.

Critical thinking through reflection provides contextualization for the audience. Reflections are brief introductions that tell the reader why you have included an artifact, why it is important and how it applies to your professional goals. You can use reflection to convey what you know, what you can do, how you approach new situations, solve problems, or embrace opportunities, or who you are as a learner or employee. It also may highlight common themes across your experience and describe for the reader how your experiences tie together. Critical thinking through reflection helps you to tell a coherent, professional story about yourself. It tells your professional audience what you bring to the table.

## **Other Resources**

This road map is designed to help you identify and develop artifacts for your ePortfolio across the HDFS curriculum and encourage reflection on how your experiences prepared you to accomplish your professional goals. There are other resources not included in this road map that will be helpful to you.

- Use the ePortfolio project website to see examples of other students' work. You can get ideas for selecting artifacts, website design and critical thinking through reflection. Keep in mind that some examples are better than others. You also will find information on all aspects of ePortfolio design. The website address is <http://wp.auburn.edu/writing/eportfolio-project/>
- Attend ePortfolio workshops offered to students by Auburn University and the ePortfolio project and the HDFS department
- Visit the Miller Writing Center in RBD Library for help in writing reflections for contextualizing your artifacts and to strengthen other examples of your written work.