

The e-Portfolio: Providing a Showcase for Student Accomplishments for Potential Employers and Evidence of BSN Learning Outcomes

Karen S. Migl, PhD, RNC, WHNP-BC and Rose M. Powell, PhD, RN

DeWitt School of Nursing
Stephen F. Austin State University



PURPOSE

The purpose of this project was to allow the graduating nursing student to make an e-Portfolio that would not only showcase the essentials of the job search such as a resume and cover letter, but also provide evidence of how each program learning outcome was met and provide expressions of student's unique skills and accomplishments (Garrett, MacPhee, & Jackson, 2012).

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Describe the importance of showcasing individual senior nursing student accomplishments:

- Provides evidence of individual accomplishments, skills, abilities, and documentation of the scope and quality of experience and training.
- Platform for future employers to view the "new graduate nurse" with a different perspective.

Objective 2: Utilize the e-Portfolio Rubric to determine:

- Application of student's personal accomplishments and personal growth through the educational process and activities.
- Student's short and long term goals.
- Student's personal philosophy of nursing.
- Critical thinking, analysis, and reflection of how the student met the BSN Program Learning Objectives.

STRATEGY

- > States personal philosophy of nursing.
- Evaluates personal achievement in each of the BSN Program Learning Outcomes (PLO).
- Supporting course work is identified through documents in the PLO's.

EVIDENCE

- As a professional nurse, a portfolio that is well prepared provides "evidence" to an employer of accomplishments, skills, abilities and documents the scope and quality of experience and training.
- This project provided the opportunity for the graduating nursing student to make an e-Portfolio that would showcase the essentials of the job search such as a resume and cover letter.
- The e-Portfolio provided a mechanism to showcase the evidence of how each program learning outcome was met and provide expressions of student's unique skills and accomplishments (Garrett, MacPhee, & Jackson, 2012).
- The e-Portfolio engaged the student to examine their individual learning experiences and provided them the opportunity to synthesize and reconsider those experiences.



LIMITATIONS / CONCLUSIONS

Limitations:

- ➤ Graduating senior nursing students are overwhelmed with the graduation process and preparation for NCLEX-RN licensure exam. This may cause them to be less focused on this reflective process.
- > Time limitation

Conclusions:

- ➤ e-Portfolios are an opportunity for senior nursing students to showcase their individual accomplishments, skills, abilities. It provides documentation of the scope and quality of experience and training.
- ➤ Provides a platform for future employers to view the student with a different lens other than "new graduate nurse".

IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE

➤ Senior nursing students are required to reflect and provide documentation of how they have accomplished the BSN program learning outcomes. This reflective process may provide the student to opportunity to reflect on their individual progress through the educational BSN program and the importance of the process of lifelong learning.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Garrett, B.M., MacPhee, M., Jackson, C. (2012). Evaluation of an e-Portfolio for the assessment of clinical competence in a baccalaureate program. Nursing Education Today, 1e7. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2012.06.015.

Munacinga, S. (2015) Enhancing the portability of employability skills using e-Portfolios, Journal of Further and Higher Education, 39:6, 862-874. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0309877X.2014.953461