

Portfolio for English Majors with a Specialization in Writing

As an English major you are required to maintain a portfolio that contains work done in English courses throughout your academic career at the University of Michigan-Flint. **The purpose of the portfolio is to help the English Department assess the effectiveness of its programs, not to assess you as an individual student.** This requirement can also help you archive your work for the use of potential employers, graduate schools or recommenders, and help you reflect on the whole of your work in English at UM-Flint.

Your faculty advisor, in addition to helping you organize your program of study, will advise you in compiling and organizing your portfolio. You will submit your portfolio near graduation. **Once your advisor has signed off on the portfolio using the signature lines below, and you have submitted it, you are cleared to graduate.**

Your portfolio should contain the following:

1. Table of Contents
2. Reflective essay (3-5 typed pages long), introducing your portfolio and containing the following:
 - a. reflection on what you learned from the English Program in which you were enrolled
 - b. reflection on your writing and reading ability
 - c. description of your future plans and/or goals, and your thoughts on how the English major may influence those plans and/or goals
 - d. rationale for the inclusion of each paper in the portfolio
3. Five or six texts that address the guidelines on Page 2 of this document

Your work will be anonymous for the purposes of department assessment. You will have removed your name, grade, instructor's name, and comments from your texts before submitting your portfolio. Any other reference to your identity will be removed before English Department faculty read the portfolios as part of their program assessment. The English Department will maintain portfolios five years after you graduate.

We strongly encourage you to actively develop your portfolio along the way, collecting possible pieces for inclusion each semester.

Please include this form when submitting your portfolio, and **sign below** that you understand and acknowledge the policy outlined above. A faculty advisor must sign to indicate your portfolio requirement is complete. Thank you for your participation in our efforts to assess the effectiveness of our program.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date

Advisor Name (please print)

Advisor Signature

Date

Selecting the Papers for Your Portfolio

The portfolios collected from majors will play a significant role in the English Department's assessment and possible revision of its programs. Your portfolio should display work that is both your best and representative of the **papers you wrote as an English Major with a Specialization in Writing at the University of Michigan-Flint**.

Thus, the 5-6 papers in your portfolio must include:

- One paper from 336, 340, 363, or ENG/LIN 306
- One paper from 252, 296, ENG/COM 338, 345, 354, or other writing courses (see goal (b) below)
- Your ENG 400 seminar paper
- At least two papers from literary courses
- No more than one paper from a single course
- **ONLY** papers written for English (or English-crosslisted) courses at UM-Flint

Please provide a clean copy of each paper without your name, instructor comments, and grades. (Remember, we are evaluating our programs, not *you!*)

Your portfolio will be evaluated on criteria laid out below. Please select papers that best demonstrate the abilities described in these criteria.

Criteria:

It is our goal that, upon graduation from the English Program, that **ALL students** are able to:

1. write with an appropriate use of the structure of English
2. demonstrate an appropriate attention to your audience
3. pay attention to issues of style
4. demonstrate proficiency in a technical vocabulary (literary criticism, rhetoric/composition, linguistics)
5. write clearly and analytically about literary texts using sustained argument and integrating research from secondary sources
6. demonstrate an ability to cite correctly
7. show originality in the invention of topics or the construction of an essay

Our goals specific to **English Majors with a Specialization in Writing** are the ability to:

- a. apply knowledge of composition theory, writing center theory, and/or the history and tradition of rhetoric to analyze an object or inform a practice
- b. make stylistic choices appropriate for a creative or critical genre studied in a writing course (e.g. creative nonfiction, nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama, technical documents, business communication, review)