

About BNURS 495: Portfolios

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What is a portfolio?

- Nursing website: Portfolio requirements
- A self-assessment: the student reviews development in selected areas
 - Critical thinking
 - Oral communication
 - Written communication
 - Theoretical application to clinical practice
 - Comparison of goals at entrance into program versus near graduation



But what is it really?



- A course without any classes
- A non-graded course
 - You pass or fail
- A collection of 3 papers written by the student while in the program
- Plus, a 4 - 5 page reflective essay written in the final quarter of the student's 30 credits in nursing

Which section do I sign up for?

- Sign up for any section you like
- To distribute the class size, each instructor has the same amount of slots
- Once an instructor reaches her limit, that section will close
- Basically all instructors use the same approach



Why do I need to do one?

- Portfolios have been popular in other professions
 - Now becoming more popular in nursing
- Provide student with
 - Opportunity to review overall growth while in program
 - 1 credit of required 30 nursing credits
- Provide faculty with information about
 - General student outcomes
 - Student's academic skills if a letter of recommendation is needed for graduate school or a new job opportunity

How do I start?



- During beginning of your last nursing quarter, a copy of your initial goal statement will be put in your mail folder
- Gather your longer papers from your courses
- You must include the entire caring paper from BNURS 350

Getting started cont.

- Pick out 2 other papers – your favorites from other classes



- One of these papers must be from another nursing course, and the other can be from a nursing or non-nursing course

- Include papers from different quarters, if possible

More on Papers

- These papers will not be re-graded or marked
 - No need to re-do
- Papers can be
 - actual papers that you received back from the instructor
 - copies of these marked papers
 - a new copy from your computer
- You will not get these papers back
- They are eventually placed in your student file

What if I didn't save all of my papers???



Writing your essay

- Break your paper into sections
- One way to do this is:
 - Introduction
 - Growth in critical thinking
 - Growth in oral communication
 - Growth in written communication
 - Application to clinical practice
 - Goals at end versus beginning of Nsg. Program
 - Closing
- Other formats are also fine



Tips for writing your essay

- Save the section on critical thinking for last
- Always give 1 or 2 examples for each section.
- When possible, give examples from the papers you have included in the portfolio
- Initially give yourself 1-2 hours to start writing your essay



Critical Thinking Section

- See box on portfolio guidelines page in Student Handbook
 - Accurately interpret evidence
 - Identify major arguments
 - Thoughtfully analyze major arguments
 - Explain reasons/assumptions in support of conclusion
 - Fair-mindedly follow where the evidence and reasons lead





When is it due?

- Varies among instructors
 - Usually weeks 4 – 7 in last nursing qtr.
- Some instructors ask for a good draft, others want the final version
- Hand in your essay, original goal statement and selected papers, unless instructed otherwise
 - Place in a large brown envelope

How can I get a jump-start?



- Determine which papers you might like to include
- Write memos about growth in critical thinking, oral, and written communication
- Think about the things you have learned and used in your clinical practice
 - If not currently working, would use if you were working

How do I pass?



- Instructor reviews essay to see if student met course objectives
 - Appropriate scholarly work included in the portfolio
 - Essay reflects student's achievements in the designated areas
- Instructor will email you or give you a copy of the instructor's descriptive summary of your essay
- How do students fail?
 - Usually when a student forgets to submit their portfolio!



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