

Portfolio Criteria for Undergraduate Geography Majors

The portfolio has a two-fold function; an assessment tool for the department and a physical product for students to use to begin their careers. Not all items required for assessment are necessarily appropriate for use in job interviews. Therefore, students should be encouraged to produce two versions of their portfolio. Students are also encouraged to produce an electronic copy. This copy might be in the form of a web page where prospective employers can preview the portfolio prior to the selection of interview candidates, or as an interactive CD.

The following outlines the (proposed) minimum requirement for the geography portfolio.

Each of the following is required

1. Reflection Statement

A one to two page reflection of your experience in geography, the knowledge and skills you have gained, and your future goals and how your experiences will help you achieve them.

2. Résumé

Should include curricular and extracurricular activities, special skills, work experience, internship experience, and any other information relevant to a prospective employer.

3. At least two examples of each of the following (not to exceed 10) are to be included. Students should be creative and selective in their choices.

A. Critical Thinking and Communication Skills

Examples of work that demonstrates the student's skills in critical thought and their ability to effectively communicate ideas in both oral and written forms. Examples of work that might be presented include:

- ✓ Full length term or research paper
- ✓ Short essay
- ✓ Professional presentations (include program abstract)
- ✓ Publications
- ✓ Posters (produced for use at ECU or at professional meetings)
- ✓ Book Reviews

B. Geographical Analysis and Research

Examples in this category should reflect the student's ability to carry out research on a geographical topic and to analyze geographical data. Examples of work that represent these skills include:

- ✓ Quantitative data analysis, such as assignments from 2400
- ✓ Independent research and project design. Many class projects require students to design and carry out research projects. Sources for such projects include:
 - ✗ Class labs that require research or data analysis
 - ✗ Independent study projects that are research based
 - ✗ Field course projects such as those from 4140 and 5220
 - ✗ Class projects such as final research projects

C. Geographic Information Science

Students should demonstrate their competency in the cutting-edge tools and techniques of geography. Examples of work that represent these skills include:

- ✓ Spatial data or data management exercises/projects
 - ✗ These might include spreadsheet, database or GIS projects
- ✓ Cartographic projects or exercises
- ✓ GIS projects or exercises
- ✓ Remote sensing projects or exercises

If appropriate, students may include up to four additional items that reflect the specific attributes of their educational experiences.

4. Additional Optional Items

Examples of additional items/work that would be appropriate include:

- ✓ Internship reports/projects
- ✓ Extracurricular activities
- ✓ Community service or outreach work
- ✓ URL for a web version of your portfolio