

UND Department of Anthropology



THE SENIOR PORTFOLIO

As you know, in the Spring semester of your senior year you will be taking our Senior Capstone Seminar. For many of you, this seminar will be the final opportunity you may have to reflect on your years at UND and to consider how (or how not!) majoring in Anthropology has shaped your education and world perspectives. Past seniors have remarked that one of the most valuable activities they completed as undergraduates was the development, construction and analysis of their “Senior Portfolio.”

This portfolio brings together all of the ‘work products’ you have completed in your years as an Anthropology major. During the senior seminar you will have a chance to see your accomplishments graphically and to evaluate your own intellectual growth across the years (a self-assessment). The portfolio also is an excellent source of information about your skills, competencies and abilities—for employers, grad programs and for professors who will write letters of recommendation for you. And it also helps us, the faculty, see how we might improve our course design and assignments within the Anthropology curriculum.

Begin assembling your work products now (and continue doing this throughout your UND career)! Portfolios come in all sizes and shapes and may have varied contents, but you can begin thinking about your portfolio as a small filing cabinet that graphically displays and communicates skills and examples of achievements.

Portfolios should contain the following, but should not be limited to these items alone:

- a current functional resume that emphasizes skills and activities (we will work on this together in the Senior Seminar)
- a current self-reflection essay that reveals your interests, academic preparation, description of experiential learning, and general graduate school and/or career goals (we will work on this together in the Senior Seminar)
- a transcript
- academic research and response papers
- essays and critical reviews (including essay tests)
- laboratory projects and sample pages from lab journals that demonstrate particular skills
- field work reflections (include pictures from the field!)
- webpages you’ve designed [including sample printouts]
- public presentations (posters [including a photo of your poster], speeches, PowerPoint presentations [including sample printouts of slides], etc.)
- evidence of your learning that goes *beyond the classroom* (e.g., documentation of volunteer activities and internships, personal experiences, co-ops, service learning, experiential learning, leadership experiences, etc.)
- any other ‘work products’ that you think importantly represent your skills, abilities, and competencies.

Think carefully about the image that your final portfolio will present. Small details do make a difference—font size, clarity, graphic ‘artifacts’, organization, care of design, etc. We will assist you with some of these things in the Senior Seminar, but you will have plenty of room to express your own creativity and purpose.

You will take pride in this portfolio and will be able to see, in a real and tangible way, the impressive scope of your undergraduate achievements!