

The Academic Portfolio: A Primer for Residents

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Definition:

“A professional development portfolio is a collection of materials, made by a professional that records, and reflects on, key events and processes in that professional’s career.” Hall 1992

Purposes of a portfolio:

- Record and display professional goals, growth and achievement
- Collection of materials that demonstrate a resident’s competency
- Exhibit of work that supports a resident’s self-marketing upon graduation
- Foundation for career-long documentation of professional growth

Real purpose of a portfolio:

- Get the best academic job
- Get the best academic title
- Get promoted
- Guide your career development

Key Components of a Portfolio:

- Experience – What happened? What has been done, seen, written...
- Learning – Discovery that what has been recalled has significance for doing or changing things in the future
- Evidence – Demonstration of how learning is being applied in context
- Learning Needs & Opportunities – Identify where to go next and develop and individualized educational action plan

Different from a CV:

- Evidence of instructional activities with evaluations
 - Bedside teaching
 - Didactic teaching
 - Simulation/Procedural/Small group teaching
- Describe curricular innovation and with evidence of scholarship
 - New courses or sessions
 - Novel learning modules
- Identify mentorship
 - Discuss students or others you have helped
- Articulate your teaching philosophy & goals
 - Reflective statement

Reflective statement

- Teaching philosophy
 - Personal learning theory
 - Role as a teacher
 - Educational strengths
 - Areas of question that you wish to explore further
- Teaching goals
 - Focused goals – 3-5 years
 - Might include career path, but shouldn't be just what job you want
- Experience & expertise in teaching
 - What worked – how did learners improve based on your teaching
 - What didn't work – how did you/will you change a teaching program or style next time if something didn't work well.

References:

1. Beecher A, Lindemann J, Morzinski J, Simpson D. Use of the educator's portfolio to stimulate reflective practice among medical educators. *Teach Learn Med.* 1997; 9(1):56–9.
2. Gusic M, Chandran L, Balmer D, D'Alessandro D, Baldwin C. "Educator Portfolio Template". Academic Pediatric Association's Educational Scholars Program. *MedEdPortal.* <https://www.mededportal.org/publication/626>
3. Hall, D. "Professional development portfolios for teachers and lecturers." *British Journal of In-Service Education.* 1992. 18(2): 81-86.
4. Kuhn GJ. "Faculty Development: The Educator's Portfolio: Its Preparation, Uses and Value in Academic Medicine" *Acad Emerg Med* 2004. 11(3): 307 – 311.

Sample Physician Teaching Portfolios and Statements (note these are very senior, career educators):

1. <https://ccph.memberclicks.net/ces-toolkit-portfolio>
2. <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/Departments/Department-of-Anesthesiology/docs/Teaching-Portfolio-Example.asp>
3. http://www.theheitzfamily.com/portfolio/presentations_assets/Teaching%20Portfolio%202010.pdf
4. http://tulanemedicine.com/PDFs/Wiese_TEACHING_PORTFOLIO.pdf
5. <http://www.medicine.emory.edu/faculty/documents/TeachingPortfoliomjm.pdf>