

Center for Instructional Development and Research

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Developing a Teaching Portfolio

WHAT IS A TEACHING PORTFOLIO?

A portfolio or dossier is a collection of material that depicts the nature and quality of an individual's teaching and students' learning. Portfolios are structured deliberately to reflect particular aspects of teaching and learning – they are not trunks full of teaching artifacts and memorabilia. At its best a portfolio documents an instructor's approach to teaching, combining specific evidence of instructional strategies and effectiveness in a way that captures teaching's intellectual substance and complexity. (William Cerbin, 1993)

HOW ARE TEACHING PORTFOLIOS USED?

As a "product" (for decisions – evaluative, summative)

- to communicate your teaching to potential employer
- to communicate your teaching to students, colleagues, community

As a "process" (for development – formative, reflective)

- to record your teaching experiences over time
- to provide themes and evidence for your evaluative portfolio

WHAT GOES INTO A TEACHING PORTFOLIO?

- Teaching Experience and Responsibilities
- Teaching Philosophy
- Teaching Methods and Strategies
- Examples of efforts to Improve Teaching
 - observations, critiques
 - workshops
 - experiments in pedagogy and methodology
- Teaching Goals: short- and long-term
- Appendices
 - Annotated course materials -- for example, syllabi, assignments, activities, handouts
 - Examples of student work
 - Student ratings and other student feedback
 - Peer and supervisor reviews

Information for People who Teach
at the University of Washington

Continued on back >>



HOW CAN YOU BEGIN TO WORK ON A TEACHING PORTFOLIO?

- Reflect on your teaching individually; talk about your teaching with others
- Get feedback on your teaching from several sources – students, peers, supervisors, video
- Reflect on student learning in your field: How do students learn? What challenges do they face?
- Keep records of your teaching, feedback you receive, and plans to develop your teaching
- Seek out teaching opportunities

HOW CAN CIDR HELP?

At CIDR we provide resources and assistance to help you with your teaching. We can help you with your teaching portfolio by providing

- Examples of TA and faculty teaching portfolios from various disciplines.
- Current literature on teaching and course portfolios in the CIDR Library.
- Individual consultation and workshops about developing a teaching portfolio.

Selected Web Sites

CIDR Teaching Portfolio Information:

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/portfolio/index.html>

Teaching Portfolio Tools:

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/resources/portfoliotools.html>

Getting Started on a Teaching Philosophy:

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/resources/writingtips.html>



Center for Instructional Development and Research

CIDR promotes excellence in teaching and learning at the University of Washington through its work with individual faculty and TAs, departments, campus-wide initiatives, and University leaders. CIDR staff are available year-round to collaborate on the design, implementation, and assessment of ways to advance teaching and learning for all students in the diverse UW community. Consultations are confidential and offered at no charge to UW faculty, TAs, and departments.

If you have questions about teaching and learning, or you would like to find out more about working with CIDR, you can call us at 543-6588, send a message to cidr@u.washington.edu, or visit our web site:

<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/>



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