ePortfolios: Collect and Reflect as Students Transition into Professional Practice

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We declare no conflict of interest

Objectives

At the end of the presentation, the participants will be able to:

- Discuss the pedagogical use of ePortfolios to bridge the gaps between theory and practice
- Discuss reflective thinking when incorporating ePortfolio into the curriculum
- Understand that developing ePortfolios prepares students for professional practice
Why ePortfolios?

Significance

- Integrate technology in teaching strategies
- Improve student engagement
- Organize structure to showcase best work
- Develop cognitive skills of reflection to bridge gaps between theory and practice  (Karsten, 2012)
What is ePortfolio?

- **ePortfolio** – is a personalized collection of evidence from coursework, experiences outside of the classroom, and reflective commentary related to this evidence that can be shared with others electronically; categorized electronic presentation of one’s skills, education and examples of work and/or career achievements.

- **Evidence** – artifacts, productions (power points, videos or posters), paper, or other evidences that demonstrate an individual’s knowledge, skills or valued attributes.

- **Reflective Commentary** – Narrative comments that focus on why an individual thinks specific evidence is important, the ways in which they value what they have learned, or why they think it is important for their profession.
Pedagogical use of ePortfolio

- Bridges the gaps between theory and practice

- Matrix
  - Knowledge
  - Competency skills
  - Oral and written communication
  - Information processing
  - Critical thinking
  - Connections between Course work and real world
  - Creativity & Innovation
The ePortfolio Learning Process

COLLECT

SELECT

CONNECT

REFLECT

Autonomy
Self Relatedness
Self Efficacy

PROJECT
 Integrated Curriculum

- Going beyond the boundaries of subject matters, with the aim of learning unified and higher level concepts

- The focus is on giving the students educational opportunities to reflect, explore, and engage in appropriate, meaningful, realistic, and learned experiences that they can integrate into every day practice
Reflective Thinking

What are they reflecting upon?
**Reflection**

- An organized way to make sense of classroom teachings and clinical experiences
- Systematic way to ascertain one’s progression in the academic program
- Results in the identification of strengths and areas of weaknesses
- Opportunity to course a development plan to enhance and improve one’s learning

*(Feather & Margaret, 2014)*
Benefits

- ePortfolios allow faculty to help students organize their learning

- Enable the assessment of level of mastery for a learning outcome

- Enhance students’ critical thinking

- Prepare students for professional practice
Study Design and Implementation

- Quantitative descriptive

- IRB approved
  - Purposive samples
  - Senior baccalaureate nursing students

- Instrument
  - Integrative and reflective survey tool
Implementation

- Partnership with educational media specialists
- Design of ePortfolio template – Inclusion of ePortfolio development in Nursing Informatics class
- Establishing a signed agreement
- Continued collection of artifacts throughout the program
- Integration of reflective thinking and documentation in Integration courses
Survey Results

Sample n=81

- 90% The functionalities of the ePortfolio showcased their work
- 97% Found it easy to use
- 90% Considered it to be helpful with their reflective thinking
- 90% Described its use to be educationally engaging
Narrative Comments

- **Functionality**
  - It is a wonderful first step in our pursuit to become a nurse. It is a great tool to use when looking at our progress.
  - This will be helpful for us in the future as we seek employment.
  - It helps me evaluate how I am doing.
  - My ePortfolio helps me make people interested in me.

- **Design**
  - Serves to provide my organization evidence of my work
  - The design is simple. One can easily learn how to use it.
  - The look of the ePortfolio is very professional. I feel good showing it around.
Conclusion

Beneficial to students to reflect on educational experience

- Professional accomplishments
- Educational success
- Positive sense of identity as a nurse
- Preparation for entry to practice
Thank You

QUESTIONS
References


