

Portfolios

A portfolio is a goal-driven, organized collection of artifacts that demonstrates a person's expansion of knowledge and skills over time. The contents, organization, and presentation of materials in portfolios vary greatly depending on their audience and purpose. However, all portfolios display tangible evidence of an individual's growth and development.

Portfolios can further be described as purposeful compilations of and reflections on a professional's work, effort, and progress in their field. Portfolios are used in various professions, including architecture, the arts, and education. These portfolios, in their most basic form, are documentation tools that capture vivid "snapshots" of critical moments in a professional's growth.¹

What might be included in a teacher candidate's portfolio?

- Lesson plans
- Unit plans
- Photographs
- Teaching materials created over a school year
- Multimedia presentations
- Letters of commendation and awards
- Resume'
- Projects that will serve as evidence of the use of various technologies as they relate to the classroom and education

¹ Kilbane, C. and Milman, N. (2003) *The digital teaching portfolio handbook*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.