

Faculty Showcase '07

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College



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Goals

- Embed MSW goals and objectives in the ePortfolio design, making them integral to the program evaluation process.
- Educate SSW students, faculty and advisors about ePortfolio purpose and development.
- To enable students to:
 - Assess their strongest work and reflect on their learning.
 - Integrate learning across both the classroom and the field.
 - Share ePortfolios during job searches.



Pilot Social Work ePortfolio Project

Project Overview

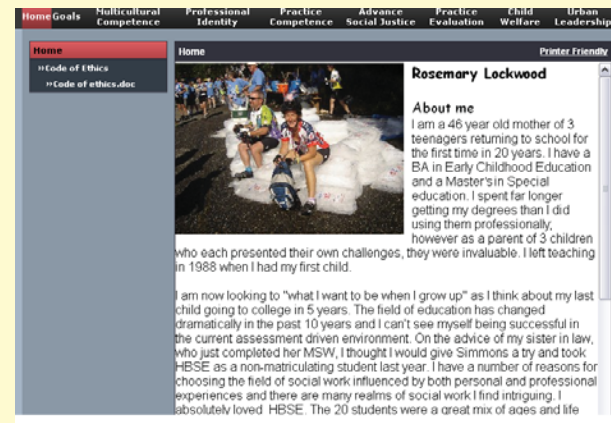
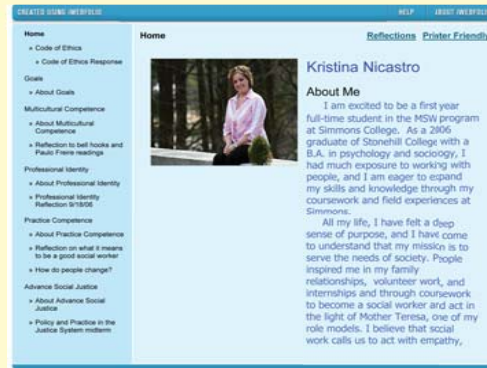
The mission of the SSW is to prepare Master's level practitioners with the knowledge and skills for clinical social work practice in a multicultural world. The SSW educational experience is designed to help students develop critical thinking and problem solving abilities as well as ethical and cultural sensitivity, self-awareness, and professional identity as social workers through reflective practice. ePortfolios provide SSW students with a means for reflecting upon and integrating their clinical and leadership learning. The development of leadership skills is a process. Through two semester-long leadership courses and four mini-courses over a two-three year period

(depending on full or extended-time status), Urban Leadership Program (ULP) students explore the meaning of leadership, assess their own skills as leaders, identify areas of strength and those areas needing further development, observe leadership activities, and in their final year of the program, develop and carry out a leadership project at their field placement agencies. It is also important for students to integrate their leadership learning as much as possible with the other 14 required courses that are part of the MSW curriculum.

Given the goals of both the MSW program and the ULP, ePortfolios are ideal for enabling students to identify and reflect on how and what they learn. Students can integrate their leadership and clinical practice experience, organize their learning/knowledge, assess their own progress relative to course objectives and improve their performance. In addition, since ePortfolios belong to students, they will be able to use their ePortfolios as they develop their careers.

Applications Beyond

ePortfolios are ideal for enabling students to identify and reflect on how and what they learn. Through ePortfolios students can integrate their experience, organize their learning/knowledge, assess their own progress relative to course objectives, improve their performance, and articulate their learning. In addition, since ePortfolios belong to students, they will be able to use their ePortfolios as they develop their careers.



SSW Rubric	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Professional Identity	Identify as a social worker is undefined.	Understands the social work role.	Identifies as a professional social worker.	Identifies as a social worker with a new leadership identity.	Early integration of social work clinician and leadership roles.
Multicultural Competence	Identify one's own multiple identities, i.e. race, gender	Identify and name differences and similarities of others.	Develop a curiosity that leads to active learning about others.	Recognize the interplay of culture and difference within and between one's self and others and work with it in practice.	Practice with an integrated understanding of and differences related to culture.
Practice Competence	Begin to integrate theory and practice.	Develop self-confidence about conducting an assessment.	Develop a treatment plan.	Engage clients in ongoing work.	Practice from an integrated framework.
Advance Social Justice	Identify the role of clinical social worker as change agent	Gain increased knowledge of the definition of social action and advocacy.	Understand one's own values and strengths as an advocate and social activist within the context of clinical social work.	Begin to formulate and influence social welfare policy within agencies and the larger community.	Critically assess social issues and problems faced by children, adults and families in today's society.
Practice Evaluation	Understand the assumptions and values of social work practice and evaluation and the interplay between them.	Understand the process of conducting evaluation research and the skills required to assess the complex contexts in which evaluation is conducted.	Understand how evaluation informs "best practices."	Understand and articulate the value, benefits and limitations of evaluation for practice and programs.	Demonstrate the ability to design an evaluation in an agency setting and present an evaluation plan.