

Creating an ePortfolio in College Central

Adapted from the *Becoming a Scholar* reader, 2018-2019

Growth is something that can be difficult to see. This is especially true when it is our own growth we seek to witness and describe. Imagine watching an infant grow into a toddler – then a child, an adolescent, and an adult. The difference between any two days is imperceptible, but the difference over weeks, months, years, and decades can be dramatic. Now imagine looking into a mirror every day and looking for changes in your own face, in your own capacities. How much harder would such daily growth be to see?

ePortfolios are one way you can watch this growth in real time.

What is an ePortfolio

An ePortfolio is a digital (online) collection of evidence that demonstrates who you are as a person, scholar, and emerging leader. Many academic fields – such as the arts, education, and marketing – have a long tradition of physical and digital portfolios in which students gather and present examples of their best work. These examples serve to convince a prospective employer or graduate school admissions committee of the individual's potential for success in a new venture. In recent years, ePortfolios have expanded and departments across the academic landscape now often include this approach. There are at least three areas in which an undergraduate ePortfolio can be helpful:

1. **College** – tracking your academic work from your first semester through graduation; witnessing your own growth in how you understand, think, communicate, question, and integrate learning across your academic journey.
2. **Vocation** – observing changes in your understanding of your gifts and strengths, and in the ways you plan to use those gifts in the world; discovering subtle shifts in your passions, your identity, and your values.
3. **Career** – collecting examples of your best work and demonstrating your ability to transition effectively into your post-graduate life; showing (rather than telling) future employers the knowledge, skills, and abilities you possess.

Bluffton University ePortfolio Process

All students have an account in Bluffton University's *College Central Network* (CCN). To access and update your account:

1. Go to <https://www.collegecentral.com/bluffton/> (you can also get here through the Center for Career and Vocation page on Bluffton's website:

<https://www.bluffton.edu/academiclife/career/findjob/employlinks.aspx>). Click on College Central and then the “Students” box at the bottom of the page.

2. Enter your 6-digit Student ID in the “User ID” field. If your ID is only 5-digits long, add a lead zero (for example, “34567” would be entered as “034567”).
3. The first time you enter, click on “Forgot your Password.” This will allow you to set up your account and enter a password of your choosing for future log-in.
4. Once you get to the CCN Dashboard, we encourage you to explore all of the CCN functions. Eventually, though, you will want to click on “My Career Portfolio” on the left side of the page.
5. Click on “Create a Career Portfolio.” On this page, you can read the one-page help document in the upper right hand corner. Then select the “General Career Portfolio” option from the list. If you are in art, design, theatre, or music, you may want to return later in your program to consider a different format; for now, though, the General Career Portfolio offers the broadest options for uploading documents (doc/docx, pdf, ppt, etc.).
6. Click the green “Create” button to get started.
7. There are great help features on this page, including a video tutorial and pop-up tips accessed by hovering over the gray question marks.
8. Add the two required items listed in your *Becoming a Scholar* syllabus by clicking the “Add” button in any center section. You will give your posting a title and a brief description. Then click “Choose file” to locate the document on your computer and “Save” to add it to your ePortfolio.
9. Once you have added two items, additional buttons will appear at the top of the page. These are settings that allow your ePortfolio to be located by employer searches and to be shared by email with your professor or others. We recommended the following settings for these buttons:
 - Employer Search – leave set to “Off” (the default)
 - Shareable Link – move to “On” so that you can share your ePortfolio with your professor if asked
10. On the right hand side of the page, you will see similar “Add” buttons to add languages, a website or blog, and a personal statement.

If you have any questions or challenges with your ePortfolio, please visit the Center for Career and Vocation, located just inside the main entrance to the Musselman Library. The staff there can help you make the very best use of this tool.

Find the sustainable you!

Located in Musselman Library

www.bluffton.edu/studentlife/career/