

MACS Final Portfolio Project

Most graduate degrees have as a requirement a final project, capstone, thesis, or examination. For students in MACS there are two options, the thesis or portfolio. For more information about the thesis option, please refer to the Thesis Guidelines.

The portfolio project is designed to demonstrate the cross-disciplinary perspective students acquired and honed in the program. Students will use the portfolio to present what they learned through their own personalized curriculum.

The completed portfolio will respond to the following questions:

- Why did you choose to do graduate work in Cross-disciplinary Studies?
- How did you decide on a concentration track? (See Theme)
- How did your perspective on Cross-disciplinary Studies evolve over the course of the program? (See Theme)
- How do you intend to utilize his/her graduate education in the professional marketplace?

The completed portfolio will contain narrative sections responding to the above questions as well as exhibit and comment on selections of the student's work completed during his/her time in the program. Work selections must be drawn from a minimum of four different courses the student took while in the program. The portfolio must clearly identify these courses. One of these courses must be a MACS core course. Selections of the student's work exhibited in the portfolio may include but are not limited to the following:

- Research papers
- Professional projects completed during the student's practicum sequence
- Oral presentations
- Course journal entries

The completed portfolio will also include both the resume the student used as they applied for admission to the program as well as the student's updated resume reflecting the academic expertise he/she gained as a graduate student in Cross-disciplinary Studies.

The portfolio shall contain the following:

Title Page (see example)

Table of Contents

Introduction-Here the student will introduce the theme of their portfolio

Four Narrative Sections, each responding to the four areas listed above

Final Reflections

References

Appendix-this shall be made up of copies of the work cited as well as the resumes

The portfolio excluding cover page, table of contents, reference pages and appendix is usually between 25-40 pages.

The portfolio pages *must* be numbered in all drafts and the final submission.

The Theme

Since MACS provides students with the invitation and opportunity to co-create their program using courses from multiple disciplines, the theme of the portfolio is generally an interdisciplinary perspective selected by the student regarding a particular topic. For example, a student may have focused on the environment and society, taking courses from the Oceanographic Center as well as courses such as Environmental and Public Disputes from SHSS. In addition, the student took MACS required courses such as Practicum and may have selected an environmental action group as their site. The student may be interested in how communities and environmental groups can work together. That may become the theme and the student would select examples of their work from four or more courses related to this theme and show how the selected MACS, their concentration, how their perspectives evolved and how they intend to utilize their graduate education in the professionally.

Four Narrative Sections

Each section is related to one of the four questions students are asked to address (See above). Each section is a narrative and uses examples of the theories, models, literature, from the courses to substantiate the student's points and perspectives. Examples of the student's work should be woven throughout each narrative. Full examples will be placed in the Appendix, but parts of the work will be cited in each narrative. The second and third sections should be the longest and the most comprehensive.

Final Reflections

This is where students will look at their overall graduate study in MACS and make their final concluding remarks.

Appendix

The Appendix shall contain the examples of the student's work cited in the narratives. For example the student may have cited parts of their Integrated paper from Practicum I. In the Appendix they shall place a full copy of the paper, whereas in the narratives they were citing specific parts of the paper. They will also include the resumes as mentioned above.

Format

The portfolio draft should be submitted to Dr. McKay before it is placed into the final form. Once the draft has been approved, the final Portfolio should be submitted. The final portfolio should be printed with named tabs separating the sections after the Table of Contents. It should be preferably coil bound, but may be spiral bound if exceptionally large. It should be printed on high grade paper. It will be retained therefore students should produce two copies so they may retain a copy. Once the portfolio has been approved and all other requirements are met, the student may apply for conferral of degree.

Title of Portfolio

Your Name

A project submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts
in Cross-disciplinary Studies
in the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Nova Southeastern University
2014