**Eportfolio Introduction Video #1**

Hello. This video is designed to introduce SLCC’s ePortfolio requirement by answering the kinds of questions that might have occurred to you. It features screenshots of actual ePortfolios created by SLCC students.

*So what, exactly, is the General Education ePortfolio Requirement?*

Colleges and universities around the country have ePortfolio requirements, and SLCC is the first public institution in Utah to have one. Our ePortfolio requirement emphasizes student ownership, creativity and engagement throughout the General Education program.

Ours is a course-level requirement, meaning that professors in each Gen Ed course will ask you to put at least one assignment that you are already doing for the class and reflection into an ePortfolio that you create using Web 2.0 technology. Beyond following a common outline shown here, you get to use your creativity to make it as interesting and professional as you are.

You’ll create a page for the course you took to satisfy each Gen Ed requirement, and on that page you’ll list the course name, describe the assignment or assignments in the portfolio, put the actual assignments, and add some reflection that your professor will ask you to do. Pretty simple. It takes maybe 10 extra minutes per class to create a nice-looking page and upload your work.

*What are the Educational Advantages of Having an ePortfolio?*

There are many educational benefits of having an ePortfolio. I think the best one is that ePortfolios allow you to organize your work from all your General Education classes in one place. This enables you to see how subjects that you never would have imagined fit together, like math (QL designation) and psychology (SS designation), actually relate to each other.

Let’s take for example the student learning outcome “developing quantitative literacies necessary for your chosen field.” As a Math geek, this is my personal favorite! First of all, what does it mean to be quantitatively literate? Basically, it boils down to developing the math concepts you need in order to do your job not only well but efficiently. You can demonstrate that in your ePortfolio. For example, the signature assignment from your psychology class might ask you to analyze data to make your conclusions. In order to do so, you are using the math you learned in your statistics class! Unbelievable, two courses, two subjects you didn’t see any connection between in each individual class are brought together for you in your ePortfolio! This is great! The signature assignment in your psychology class fulfills your Social Sciences Gen Ed requirement, but it is also helping you demonstrate that you can apply quantitative literacy in a new setting.
So what is the benefit? You have demonstrated to your teachers that you have achieved one of the five student learning outcomes SLCC says are important to all of its graduates, and you now have a better understanding of what type of things you will be asked to do when you are actually working in your field. You have gained some real world experience...Now that is a benefit!

*What Role does Reflection Play in the ePortfolio?*

When you put a course’s signature assignment in your portfolio, your instructor will ask you to reflect upon either that assignment or the course as a whole. Your reflection will very often be written text, but it could just as well be an audio file of you speaking your reflection, or even a video.

The reflection in the ePortfolio provides you the opportunity to explore what you have learned, how that new knowledge relates to your other coursework, and how it might apply to your life. Instructors might ask you to elaborate on how your work indicates that you are making progress toward key learning outcomes like effective communication or critical thinking. They might ask you to connect your learning across disciplines.

Here’s an example of how powerful reflection can be. You may be tempted to compose your education as a discrete set of experiences like this. But because there is nothing holding them together, you are much more likely to lose them over time.

Thoughtful reflection connects these experiences into a matrix that is much more resilient, because you have constructed the links that tie them together in your mind.

*Aside from the Educational Benefits, What Else is in it for Students?*

In the process of creating your ePortfolio you will learn new computer literacy skills, the art of web design using Web 2.0 tools, how to showcase your extracurricular responsibilities and activities, and even your independent projects.

You have a life outside of the classroom: the ePortfolio is also a space for you to showcase your passions and learning beyond your coursework. The “Learning Outside the Classroom” tab gives you “time” and “space” to showcase the activities, interests, projects, service, training, and life learning that make you...you.

SLCC’s Gen Ed ePortfolio will also show you how to create a more meaningful online presence for yourself, which is an increasingly important thing for you to consider.

*What is the relationship between ePortfolios and Assessment?*

Electronic portfolios play several important assessment roles. Colleges and universities around the country are turning to student electronic portfolios to do the
kinds of rich assessments of student work that are not possible with standardized tests. SLCC uses random assessment of a sample of ePortfolios—anonymously, with no student names attached—as evidence in the College’s regular accreditation reports.

Faculty use ePortfolios—especially the reflections that accompany student work—to assess their own courses. They can tell from student reflections whether their signature assignments are helping students make intellectual connections and achieve important learning outcomes.

EPortfolios perform a self-assessment function for students as well. The more effort students put in to their ePortfolios, the easier it is for them to see how they are doing in a given semester and over time. It is very enlightening to compare artifacts and reflection from your first semester at SLCC with those from your final semester.

To get started on your ePortfolio, you should. Go to the ePortfolio page on SLCC’s website. Click on “Info for Students” There you will find the Student ePortfolio Handbook with complete details You’ll find links to online ePortfolio tutorials. You’ll also be able to sign up for free ePortfolio workshops in SLCC’s Libraries. If you have further questions, email eportfolio@slcc.edu.