

University of Maine Master of Arts in English
Final Degree Portfolio Contents and Evaluation Criteria

Portfolio Contents

The portfolio will be both comprehensive and selective, illustrating a range of coursework, while also highlighting the candidate's special research interests.

Degree Portfolios accepted for review will be comprised of roughly **50** pages of your best work, specifically:

- 1) A 10-15 page (double-spaced) critical-reflective letter containing:
 - a) an account of your goals at the start of the program, during the program, and at the present time
 - b) an articulation of your selection process for the portfolio contents
 - c) An account of the revision process for the essay (and artifacts, where relevant)
 - d) A contextualization of the included materials within your course of study and within the relevant professional, creative and/or academic field.
 - e) An outline of your aspirations and plans for your profession or vocation going forward
- 2) A revised critical-analytical essay presenting an insightful argument in the context of appropriate scholarly / theoretical / empirical research conversations. Revised essays will be accompanied by the original version.
- 3) Three additional professional artifacts, selected to represent both the breadth of the coursework taken and the range of the candidate's abilities. Artifacts might include (but are not limited to) genres like annotated bibliographies, technical documentation, an original assignment sequence, a conference paper with PPT deck, keyword essays, a showcase of editorial or tutorial work from NPF or the Writing Center, a research grant application, a web interface or curation of an online archive, etc.
- 4) An up-to-date curriculum vitae.

Critical-reflective Letter Evaluation Criteria:

- I. The account of your goals at the start of the program, during the program, and at the present time is thorough and specific.
- II. The articulation of your selection process for the portfolio contents is attentive to detail and persuasively describes how each item exemplifies the development of your creative, intellectual and/or professional skills.
- III. The description of the essay-revision process details how the revision improved the quality of the scholarship, especially in terms of the specific criteria for the critical essay described in section 7, below.
- IV. The contextualization of the included materials, within your course of study and within the relevant professional, creative and/or academic field is thoughtful.
- V. The outline of your aspirations and plans for your profession or vocation going forward is clear and relevant to your coursework and goals.

Supporting Materials Evaluation Criteria:

- VI. The materials selected for inclusion provide substantial evidence for the claims of personal and intellectual development that the candidate has articulated in the critical-reflective letter.
- VII. The critical-analytical essay demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the scholarly conversations concerning the object of inquiry, is closely and persuasively reasoned, attends ethically to all available evidence, and is measured and judicious in its conclusions.
- VIII. Care has been taken with the presentation of the materials, and the order of items follows the logic outlined in the reflective essay.
- IX. Stylistic and formatting decisions are consistent with the conventions of the artifacts included.