CALL FOR INDIVIDUAL FACULTY PARTICIPANTS:
ACADEMY FOR WRITING:
INTEGRATING EPORTFOLIOS

This summer, University Writing will host an Academy for Writing devoted to helping faculty integrate ePortfolios or their components into a single course.

ACADEMY OVERVIEW

ePortfolios are personal websites that (1) communicate and showcase skills, experiences, and learning; (2) contain diverse artifacts such as documents and media; and (3) contextualize those artifacts for potential employers, graduate schools, etc. ePortfolios enable students to collect their work over time, reflect upon their personal and academic growth, and share integrated learning experiences with others, such as professors, advisors, and potential employers. They also provide opportunities for students to make connections among various learning experiences, such as high-impact practices like undergraduate research, ePortfolios, internships and co-ops, and study abroad (see https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips for additional HIPs).

Participants may want to have students complete a finished draft of an ePortfolio by the end of the term, add new materials and pages to an existing ePortfolio students began in a previous course, or learn about and practice with one or more of the components of an ePortfolio, such as:

- **Critical thinking through reflection**, which focuses on evidence of critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, creation) as it exists in within artifacts, arrangement, and reflective writing
- **Visual literacy**, which focuses on how the author uses visual elements to provide evidence, construct deeper meaning, and support and enhance a message
- **Technical competency**, which focuses on the application of technical elements that enhance how information is conveyed to an audience, including navigation and technical features like slide shows, scroll bars, hyperlinks, or the quality or size of graphics
- **Ethical literacy**, which refers to choices in texts and images that consistently respect others and demonstrate awareness fair use, ownership, appropriateness, and/or credit
- **Effective communication**, which emphasizes awareness of audiences, purposes, and genre conventions as appropriate for the discipline, profession, or field.

By the end of this Academy, faculty will produce:

- A prompt for an ePortfolio or another major assignment that teaches the components of ePortfolios, such as
  - Project websites that enhance technical competency and ethical literacy while communicating a collaborative or research project effectively to a public audience
  - Public-facing documents that serve as strong ePortfolio artifacts and help students develop effective communication strategies
  - Reflective documents like research philosophies or teaching philosophies that connect previous experiences to professional goals through reflection
  - Personal brand statements and professional branding projects that help students think about their professional identities and consider how to communicate that identity to others
- Activities or teaching materials that scaffold learning for this major assignment
- Peer review protocols
- A grading tool (a rubric, scoring guide, etc.) for the assignment, which may be an adaptation of the ePortfolio rubric <insert link>
Academy participants will be limited to 24. We are particularly interested in applications from faculty members who

- Want to transform existing assignments to enhance critical thinking through reflection, visual literacy, technical competency, ethical literacy, or effective communication
- Want to support students in reflecting and communicating other high-impact learning experiences via an ePortfolio
- Teach courses that play a pivotal role in students’ disciplinary education (e.g., an introductory, professional practice, or capstone course)
- Are designing new courses from the ground up

We highly encourage applicants to also attend the Biggio Center’s summer Course (Re)Design Seminar before participating in this Academy.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

With the above parameters in mind, interested faculty should submit an application through [this form](#). The deadline to submit is midnight, March 14th.

The form asks applicants to describe

- The course on which they want to focus,
- Its context and target student population,
- The role of communication in their discipline or profession (approximately 250 words),
- Past experiences teaching writing or ePortfolios (approximately 250 words),
- Potential challenges to integrating ePortfolios into the course (approximately 250 words).

**SCHEDULE**

The Academy will take place on June 7, 9, 11, and 14, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participants must commit to attend all Academy meetings.

**COMPENSATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

Participants will receive a stipend of $500 upon completion of an implementation report that includes a finished assignment sheet, directions for scaffolding activities, peer review protocol(s), and a grading tool as well as a reflection on the success of the implementation.

For courses taught in fall 2020, implementation reports are due by February 13, 2022. For courses taught in spring 2021, implementation reports are due by July 3, 2022. Exceptions to these deadlines will be considered on a case-by-case basis.