

SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJORS ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO

Every student majoring in Social Sciences at Towson University is now required to keep a portfolio of work on file in the office of the Director of the Social Sciences Program. This portfolio will consist of essays and research papers written during your years at Towson, as well as a reflective essay written at the end of your undergraduate career.

Student participation is vital to the success of the assessment process. Rest assured that your portfolio will not affect your ability to graduate or your GPA. Its contents will be read only after you have graduated, and the evaluators of the portfolio will report only general data about all graduates. The purpose of the portfolio is not the evaluation of individual students, but the assessment of the major program, its requirements and courses.

CONTENTS OF PORTFOLIO

- ***Three essays or research papers*** written for classes in Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science or Sociology.
 - ✓ At least one of these papers must involve research in one or more of the disciplines of the social sciences.
 - ✓ If possible, include an essay or research paper that takes an interdisciplinary approach, that is, integrates two or more of the disciplines of the social sciences.
 - ✓ Copies of papers containing the professor's comments and evaluation are preferred.
 - ✓ Include with each paper a description of the assignment; attach a copy of the professor's specific requirements for the paper, if possible.
 - ✓ Select those papers that you regard as your best work.
 - ✓ Be sure each paper contains the name of the course and the date (or semester) submitted. Try to include work from a range of semesters.

- ***A reflective essay*** in which you evaluate the work in your portfolio in terms of your growth in these areas:
 - ✓ your knowledge of the disciplines of the social sciences;
 - ✓ your ability to integrate these disciplines;
 - ✓ your ability to write research papers and analytical essays on subjects in the social sciences;
 - ✓ the technological skills you have acquired through your major;
 - ✓ your intellectual growth during your years as a social sciences major at Towson University.

You should write this essay and place it in your portfolio during the semester in which you plan to graduate. The essay should be a minimum of three double-spaced typed pages in length.

Be sure to set up an appointment to meet with the Director of the Social Sciences Program at your earliest convenience to set up your portfolio. You will need to review the portfolio during the semester in which you will graduate to ensure that it is complete and contains your best work. You cannot be cleared for graduation until the portfolio is complete.

***CALL 410-704-2128 OR STOP BY LINTHICUM 108
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.***