USC CONNECT
INTEGRATIVE LEARNING
GRADUATION WITH
LEADERSHIP DISTINCTION
E-Portfolio Content Guide
Graduation with Leadership Distinction
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The E-Portfolio for Graduation with Leadership Distinction is designed to be the culminating project of your collegiate experience and offers you a chance to demonstrate the major learning and skills you have developed during your time at the University of South Carolina. The GLD E-Portfolio is split into three sections:

- **About Me.** The About Me page is designed to give you space to introduce yourself, your GLD Pathway(s), your major(s), your professional goals, how your portfolio is organized, and any other relevant information you may choose to share.
- **Key Insights.** The GLD E-Portfolio requires three to four (3-4) major learning statements that articulate how your within-the-classroom (WTC) and beyond-the-classroom (BTC) experiences influenced one another in order to create a change in your professional or life practices. Key insights also analyze topics or issues in order to demonstrate your ability to think critically and see things from various perspectives.
- **Leadership.** The Leadership section asks you to reflect on how what you have learned while at the University of South Carolina can solve issues or problems.

**Artifacts.** Artifacts are included in the Key Insights section of your E-Portfolio. Artifacts are items that illustrate your knowledge, skills, and thinking in relation to your Key Insights.

**Grading.** Your E-Portfolio will be graded by a reviewer using a standardized rubric, included with this content guide. The GLD E-Portfolio Rubric is made up of 12 items and a total of 48 points. Reviewers assess portfolios on a 1 to 4 scale (1 – Below Expectations; 2 – Approaching Expectations; 3 – Meets Expectations; 4 – Exceeds Expectations).

You will need a score of 34 to pass the E-Portfolio requirement.
Key Insights: What I Learned

In this section, describe 3-4 Key Insights in relation to your major field of study, other course work, and GLD pathway experiences. A Key Insight identifies learning that has been transformative for you and that has caused a change in your behavior or way of thinking. A Key Insight is grounded in study and academic work as it informs experiences that you have engaged in to enrich your education. While personal growth is important (e.g., “I am more confident”), Key Insights focus on in-depth learning. This can include the significance of your learning, such as how it has transformed your understanding, perspectives, or priorities.

The focus in describing a key insight is on how your engagements within and beyond the classroom have influenced what you believe to be important. Include how some aspects of your beyond the classroom experiences are consistent with and/or contradictory to course experiences.

There are two different ways you can approach your Key Insights:

1.) **What are the most important or meaningful concepts from your field or related fields?**
   - How did your experiences beyond-the-classroom influence or complicate your understanding of these concepts?
   - Which experiences reinforced your ideas from class and which contradicted them?
   - What questions did your experiences raise for you as a student in your major?
   - How did you resolve these questions? Do some still remain?

2.) **What were the most important or meaningful things you learned from your beyond-the-classroom experiences?**
   - How did your course work influence or complicate your understanding of what you were experiencing?
   - How did these experiences inform your understanding of concepts from your course work?
   - How did they support or contradict your understanding from your courses?
   - Did your experiences raise questions about or complicate what you were taught in your course work?

Next: Now that you have answered these questions, you should demonstrate your ability to make connections that take into account a variety of factors.

- How has your thinking about each Key Insight changed over time?
- How do your Key Insights take into account or interact with various perspectives?
- How does the thinking and learning you demonstrate in your Key Insights take into account various factors (including perspectives, theories, facts, disciplines, experiences, etc.)?
- Describe how you came to understand that various perspectives and factors were useful to you and your learning.
- What are the impacts of underlying influences or contexts on the concepts from your course work and/or your learning based on your experiences?
The analysis of each of your Key Insights is just as important as explaining how they developed throughout your collegiate experiences. Be sure to spend time considering your Key Insights within their larger context and the factors that influenced them. Make connections between more than one experience, field of study or perspective and clearly explain how the elements relate to one another.

**Artifacts** are items uploaded to your e-portfolio that show evidence of your engagement in beyond the classroom experiences or of your knowledge or skills as demonstrated in class or through projects. Be sure to include *2 artifacts for each Key Insight* – you must include at least **one (1) Within-the-classroom and one (1) Beyond-the-Classroom artifact** for each Key Insight. You may include more as needed.

Artifacts may include but are not limited to:

- Papers, projects, or other assignments
- Committee minutes or organization reports
- Programs or websites from an event you helped lead or performed in
- Reviews of your performance by supervisors or others
- Photos/videos/scans of your work*
- Links to blogs, discussion groups, websites that you developed or participated in

It is important to include samples of your work as artifacts to illustrate your knowledge, skills, and thinking in relation to the key points you are making in the text. We encourage you to use artifacts that you have created or developed throughout your collegiate career.

Be sure to refer to each artifact in the text and explain WHY you included it (i.e., why it is particularly representative or significant in your learning and, perhaps, how it relates to other experiences).

*Note on photos: While photos can enhance the aesthetics of your e-portfolio and help communicate your message, they are not considered substantive artifacts in and of themselves. Captions and explanations are important when including photos.
Leadership: How I Will Apply What I Have Learned to Leadership

Think about what you have learned through your within and beyond the classroom experiences. Now consider how you could apply that knowledge and those skills to inform decisions and solve problems in the future.

This section describes **how you plan to apply the Key Insights you have developed to lead**. Specifically, you will describe how you will apply what you have learned to address a substantive initiative, issue, problem, or professional goal.

Your Leadership section should include:

- **Statement of problem, issue, or goal.** Clearly describe the initiative, problem, or professional goal and provide a brief context or relevant background (such as “historical” context or perspectives of various stakeholders).
- **General solutions or recommendations.** How would you use your Key Insights to address the issue, problem, or professional goal? You must explain why you think this course of action will be successful. What is your rationale? What did you learn (which Key Insight) that led you to make a particular decision? Why or how does it apply to this particular case?
- **Detailed Plan.** Outline a detailed plan to implement one or more of the recommendations.
  - **Implementation.** Consider describing tasks that need to be completed, why each is important (including references to your Key Insights), who is responsible, and when each task should be completed.
  - **Evaluation.** Describe a process for analyzing the success of the plan.
    - How will you know if the project has met its goals?
    - Who will provide input?
    - What data will you collect?
    - What are your criteria for success?
    - What do you hope to learn from this experience that will build on what you have already learned or that relates to your future plans?