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The Single Subject Program faculty recommended three major changes in the portfolio process as a result of this study. First, artifact submission will be embedded into the program coursework and evaluated by the individual course instructors as part of the course requirements. The Single Subject Program instructors have since identified course assignments that align to the portfolio elements that will be considered signature assignments for use as possible portfolio artifacts. This list of suggested artifacts (e.g., signature assignments) will be given to students when entering the program and will be identified in each course syllabus. Second, all artifacts submitted by students must be their original work. Now that many of the process details and signature assignments have been identified and integrated into the coursework, the Single Subject faculty believes it reasonable for students to generate artifacts that represent their knowledge, skills, and dispositions. Third, the structure of the portfolio evaluation process has been changed. Only the reflective narrative will be evaluated at the end of each semester. This reduces not only the time spent by evaluators but also the cost necessary for paying evaluators. First semester student teachers will submit all of the artifacts and a reflective narrative for one core competency area for formative evaluation. Second semester student teachers (e.g., graduating students) will submit a complete portfolio for summative evaluation. These changes addressed the concerns of the FAC, students, and evaluators regarding the portfolio process.

Interestingly, each program is adopting the practice of signature assignments to embed the portfolio process into the programs' structure but will be doing so in different ways. The signature assignments in the Education Specialist portfolio will be the same for each student. Therefore, every student portfolio will have the same artifacts included in their portfolio. This is not the case for the Single Subject portfolios. The signature assignments are identified as only suggestions for portfolio elements; there is freedom for the students to include other original artifacts in lieu of a signature assignment. Because the single subject students do not all take the same sequence of classes due to the specialized content methods classes and because the faculty feel it



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is more important to see how the students construct their own understandings of the core competencies and make connections in their reflective narrative, this choice was built into artifact selection. This is an important distinction between the two programs.

There were significant concerns raised by evaluators and the FACs about the commercial electronic portfolio program. Although the evaluator and FAC comments from each programwere similar, the Education Specialist program decided not to use the commercial program the following year based upon the difficulties and obstacles identified in this study. The SingleSubject program however, continued to use the commercial product based upon the positive feedback received from the students regarding ease of use and the access to the California StateAcademic Content Standards within the lesson plan template. The FACs shared the data and initial results from this study with the e-portfolio company. The company has since updated their service to include options for multiple simultaneous raters and aggregating qualitative comments on-line. We feel this is a significant outcome of this study. The Education Specialist program is now reconsidering using the system now that these two major obstacles have been remedied.

It is anticipated that these changes in the portfolio processes in both programs will become seamless and not viewed as an additional assignment giving validity to the portfolio as a significant program requirement. These changes will also make program instructors more aware and accountable for evaluating the portfolio products as part of the curriculum and not a time —consuming event at the end of the semester. As with any form of assessment, time will be needed in learning to use the tools. However, as evaluators use the tools more frequently, less time will be involved in assessing student work.

Implications

Overall, a portfolio must be and perceived as integrated into a teacher education program by students and faculty. It is important that portfolio elements are aligned and goals and tasks are clear to the participants.

Additionally, the time and resources needed to successfully implement and maintain a portfolio system must not be overlooked. Coordinating the players and tasks, evaluation of candidate work, evaluation of process, aggregation and analysis of data, data management, and maintenance of the process are all necessary elements in a successful portfolio assessment process.

The significance of this pilot study, as compared to other institutions implementing electronic portfolios for the first time, is that being at a start-up institution is an extremely unique environment. As faculty, we had the freedom to create curricular programs and assessment tools without preconceived structures and historical issues to overcome. This freedom exposes other obstacles - ones that may be representative of any teacher education program as evidenced in the literature. At the time of this study, we were not just trying to develop and implement an electronic portfolio assessment system in an established institution; we were (and still are) simultaneously developing curricula and policies for the credential programs and for the university. Ours

is a fluid and flexible environment and one in which our students are learning the same traits as they begin the learning to teach process. At first, the students in both programs viewed the portfolio as an "add-on" piece—because for them, it was not integrated into the program. But, since this study, the portfolio systems in both programs have evolved in different ways and all constituents have a better understanding of the portfolio and its significance in their professional lives (Klenowski, 2000).

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Appendix A

Education Specialist: Mild/Moderate Disabilities Level I Credential Program Portfolio

Organizational Outline:

- I. Resume
- II. Philosophy of Teaching
- III. Core Competency: Foundations
- A. History
- B. Laws and Policy
- C. Ethics
- D. Professional Standards and Practices
- E. Family Systems across the Life Span
- F. Service Delivery Systems
- $\mbox{G.}$ Consultation Models and Processes
- H. Effective Communication and Collaboration
- I. Characteristics of Learners

- B. Group Assessment C. Assessment Processes - Pre-referral, Referral, Identification, Evaluation, Re-evaluation D. IEP Goals and Objectives

IV. Core Competency: Assessment

E. Behavioral Assessment

A. Individual Assessment

- V. Core Competency: Methods
- A. Learning Environments, Social Interaction, and Classroom

Management

- B. Core Curriculum in General Education
- C. Specialized Curriculum
- D. Instructional Methods
- E. Intervention Methods
- F. Modification of Methods and Materials
- G. Positive Behavioral Support
- VI. Guiding Questions:
- 1. What are the special qualities that you bring as an individual and you have developed as a professional?
- 2. How does this portfolio represent you as a developing professional who can address the diverse needs of all students?
- 3. How does this portfolio represent your evolving philosophy of teaching and practice?
 - V. Core Competency: Methods
 - A. Learning Environments, Social Interaction, and Classroom

Management

- B. Core Curriculum in General Education
- C. Specialized Curriculum
- D. Instructional Methods
- E. Intervention Methods
- F. Modification of Methods and Materials
- G. Positive Behavioral Support

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