



THE ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO

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A class assignment in an intermediate CAD class is to develop a web-based electronic portfolio. The electronic portfolio provides an immediate opportunity for potential employers to look over a very specific set of competencies, greatly reducing time needed to receive mailings or wait for a scheduled interview. The creation of an electronic portfolio is a strong indicator of computer literacy, creativity, and communication, organization, and presentation skills.

The portfolio assignment includes an introductory or home page, a resume page, and a portfolio page. The portfolio page may include garment sketches, original textile prints, or storyboards along with appropriate descriptions. Additional web pages have included fashion columns written for the school paper and examples of work completed during a design internship. Microsoft Front-Page, Adobe PhotoShop, and a digital camera are used to complete the portfolio. Students are instructed in basic web skills including addition of text, frames, buttons, graphics, and links. Links to the department and university web pages allow viewers to explore information about the department and major as well as the university.

Employers viewing the web pages have been impressed with the skills demonstrated and especially with the fact that the students have a web page. It has become an excellent means of calling positive attention to one's job application and to providing an important competitive edge to the job search. Future plans are to include an adaptation of this assignment in a portfolio class offered to students from a variety of both design and non-design majors.