

Assignment ONE: Determine if Portfolio is right for you.

1. During this course, you will complete two petitions for credit. What is a petition? Do you feel that you are a good candidate to use portfolio as a way to gain college credit?

A petition for credit is a paper or document that is submitted by a student, describing a list of classes and the appropriate learning and experience the student has that matches the content of said courses. The goal is that with the petition, the student describes how they have gained learning comparable to the course's content from alternate methods, and why they should be granted college credit for this learning.

2. Do you need to raise your grade point average (GPA) to 2.0 or higher in order to graduate? How many credit hours do you need for graduation? Break the hours down for Gen Ed, Upper and Lower.

A student enrolled in the Regents Bachelor Of Arts degree program must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 in order to graduate.¹

For the Board of Governors AAS, the breakdown is as follows:²

Total Credit Hours: 60

General Education: 21 Credit Hours

Communications: 6 credit hours

Social Science/Humanities: 6 credit hours

Computer Literacy: 3 credit hours

Math/Science: 6 credit hours

General Electives: 39 credit hours

Additionally, an 'Area Of Emphasis' may be awarded if a student has accumulated 15 credit hours in a specific area of study.

For the Regents Bachelor Of Arts program, the breakdown is as follows:³

Total Credit Hours: 128

¹ "Regents Bachelor Of Arts Degree Program". http://www.wvup.edu/Flex_degrees/New%20RBA%20Brochure%20SU09.pdf. WVU at Parkersburg. July 2009. Web. 15 Jan. 2012

² "Board Of Governors Associate in Applied Science Degree". http://www.wvup.edu/Flex_degrees/BOG_AAS_Degree_1%20-%20Copy.pdf. WVU at Parkersburg. May 2010. Web. 15 Jan. 2012

³ "Regents Bachelor Of Arts Degree Program". http://www.wvup.edu/Flex_degrees/New%20RBA%20Brochure%20SU09.pdf. WVU at Parkersburg. July 2009. Web. 15 Jan. 2012

General Education/Lower Division: 36 Credit Hours

Communications: 6 Credit Hours

Humanities: 6 Credit Hours

Social Sciences: 6 Credit Hours

Natural/Physical Sciences: 6 Credit Hours

Mathematical Sciences: 3 Credit Hours

Other hours (may come from any of the above): 9 Credit Hours

Upper Division Hours: 40 Credit Hours

These are 300 and 400 level classes.

Remaining Hours: 52 Credit Hours

These hours may come from many sources, including standard courses, portfolio review, challenge exams and formal training programs covering state standardized awards.

3. Are you highly self-directed or motivated to earn your degree? This process could speed up your graduation if you work hard. Do you think you could have all your petitions ready to submit by September? This is not a requirement, just a question.

I am very motivated to get my degree. I'm enrolled in this class to get guidance to advance my portfolio efforts, and I fully expect to have multiple petitions ready to submit.

4. Have you maximized earning college credits from other nontraditional sources that are often quicker ways to earn college credit? For example, if you have a real estate license, you may be eligible for college credit. Tell me about any licenses you have here, and I will check.

I don't currently have any licenses, formal training or external certifications that could be used to earn college credit. The portfolio is my best option for gaining credit in a non-traditional way. I am also researching the possibility of getting some credits by examination via CLEP and DANTES.

5. What is the cost to evaluate portfolio? Are there any fees if the courses are accepted as credit? Who evaluates your portfolio? Hint, it is not me. I will review your courses in this class, but that is the only time.

The cost to evaluate a portfolio is a \$300 assessment fee, with an additional \$10 per credit hour fee for each credit actually awarded and posted to the transcript.⁴ The portfolio is reviewed by college faculty.

6. Using page 160 in the book, Are there Categories that you feel may help you achieve credit? If so, which are they? 1) What you believe will be your strength areas in this process. Remind me to download this if you do not have a book yet.

The categories that I feel will be the most helpful in this process are #6) Employment History, #9) Computer or Technical Expertise and a combination of #13 and #16, as I was a worship leader at two churches for extended periods of time.

My strength area in this process is that through my work, I've been exposed to a lot of different opportunities to learn a wide variety of skills, and had the personal desire to learn a lot of the theory behind what I do for a living.

7. What will be your greater challenge areas as you go through this process?

Time management will be my greatest challenge. As the father of 3 small children, I already feel time constraints balancing my work and family.

8. What is your goal for the course. If it is for the hours only....be honest. If it is to actually submit the portfolio.....say that and also list the hours you hope to waive and the associated courses.

I have 2 goals for this course -

1) To get back into a mode of college writing. My writing in the recent past has been mostly varying technical papers and specifications, and is sporadic. This class will require me to write a lot, and I need to get back into the mindset of writing college-styled papers. I learn best by doing, so a course that will require me to write a lot will allow me to polish my writing skills, hopefully culminating with an excellent portfolio.

2) To write a great portfolio that I am proud of, and will gain me college credits,

⁴ "Regents Bachelor Of Arts Degree Program". http://www.wvup.edu/Flex_degrees/New%20RBA%20Brochure%20SU09.pdf. WVU at Parkersburg. July 2009. Web. 15 Jan. 2012

thus shortening my path to finally getting my Bachelor's degree.

I haven't yet compiled a complete list of hours I hope to waive, but other than my previous college credits, some possibilities are:

WVU, from <http://coursecatalog.wvu.edu/r/download/94548> :

- CS101 - Intro to Computer Applications
- CS110 - Intro to Computer Science
- CS111 - Intro to Data Structures
- CS210 - File and Data Structures
- CS220 - Discrete Math
- CS230 - Intro to Software Engineering
- CS310 - Principals of Programming Languages
- CS350 - Computer System Concepts
- CS430 - Advanced Software Engineering
- CS440 - Database Design & Theory
- CS453 - Data and Computer Communications
- CS465 - Introduction To Computer Security

From Marshall, http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/UG_11-12_published.pdf
(Starting on Page 368)

- CS210 - Algorithm Analysis & Design
- CS315 - Software Quality Assurance
- CS320 - Internetworking

From Concord University <http://www.concord.edu/userfiles/files/Academics/registrar/Catalog2009-2011.pdf>:

- CS410 - Software Engineering using Java