

Portfolio

The purpose of the portfolio is to offer a flexible and creative way for the homeschooler to demonstrate achievement, growth and college preparation. It needs to include samples of student work, which may reflect final achievement or demonstrate the process of learning or the progress of growth and development over time. Most importantly, it should be a reflective selection that represents learning that has prepared the student for college level success. It may include representations of academics, leadership, community involvement, as well as participation in groups and activities.

This is a list of ideas that could be included in a portfolio, but in no way is intended to limit the creativity, depth or range of the portfolio:

- Writing sample(s), which could include original reports, essays, research papers, short stories and poetry. To demonstrate process, it could include first through final drafts.
- A presentation of technologies used or produced, e.g., diskettes of digital photography created or computer programs developed. Check with Admissions to insure technologies are compatible with accessible equipment.
- Newspaper clippings, certificates of accomplishments, artifacts from attended performances in the arts, or other records of participation.
- A bibliography of books and materials read.
- Visual art work, e.g., drawings, paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography or slides of such work.
- Documentation of scientific experiments with corresponding results or learning.
- Letter(s) of recommendation concerning preparation for college and the likelihood of college success.
- Test results of basic skills tests, e.g., the Iowa Basic Skills Test.
- Evidence of math problems solved and the process of solving.
- Text and note cards of a prepared and delivered speech.
- Video or audio tapes of spoken, theatrical or musical performances.
- Financial management records and business plans of a business one has started, managed or helped lead.
- Original music composition and/or lyrics.
- Academic lesson records, travel logs or reflective journals.
- A list of service organizations and activities in which one participated.
- A resume of employment with brief job descriptions and accomplishments while working in the positions
- Description of apprenticeships and internships with responsibilities and accomplishments
- Summary of skills and expertise and an indication of who was the mentor and what special tools, materials and terminology were used
- Evidence of writing and speaking a second language.
- A record of field trips with brief descriptions of places gone and activities pursued.
- Badges, patches, trophies, ribbons, commendations or awards.