All Together Now: Integrating ePortfolio into the Major

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Integrating ePortfolio into the majors

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- New Media Technology - Computer Information Systems (CIS)
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Integrating ePortfolio into the majors

• Much of the planning and theory for the integration came out of LaGuardia’s year long ePortfolio in the Professions seminar.
  • In the ePortfolio in the Professions seminar, faculty who teach courses in professional majors work together to discover trends and test strategies for advanced use of ePortfolio by LaGuardia students.
The New Media Technology Program
and the implementation of ePortfolios
What is New Media?
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• “The Convergence of traditional forms of communication, finance, and entertainment with new methods of delivery”
What is New Media?

- Web & Graphic Design
- Audio Production
- Video editing
- Special effects
- eCommerce
- 2D & 3D animation
- Desktop & Online Publishing
- Gaming
Opportunities for Students

• Corporate and Freelance
• Website Designer or Developer
• Software development
• Physical Computing
• DVD and CD-ROM creation
• Audio and Music production
• Video production (Traditional and web-based)
• Project Management
• Entrepreneurship
The Redesign
Why redesign the program?

1. To strengthen the curriculum and improve transfer and employment opportunities for our students.

2. To integrate all of the college-wide core competencies into the Major. This will include a greater emphasis on skills such as writing (technical writing and systems documentation), oral communication (project presentation) and critical thinking (project and career planning).

3. To adjust the program structure to enable our department to quickly adjust our curriculum to match industry shifts and conditions. As well as addressing student requests for specific new media courses such as gaming, 3D animation, and visual effects.

4. Improve enrollment in the major by creating a program that leads to positive career outcomes (i.e., a program that leads to employment).
The Challenges of the Redesign

1. The New Media Program is housed in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) department. Because the New Media program is within a technical department at LaGuardia, our students may have some challenges when transferring to a four-year college where the New Media program may be housed in an Art department. Transfer to those schools can be difficult without established articulation agreements.

2. LaGuardia’s Liberal Arts based curriculum structure results in students having fewer courses in their major than students at dedicated New Media colleges. This may put our students at a disadvantage when their creative portfolios are compared against those same students from dedicated New Media colleges.

3. Staying current with the evolving technology trends. The field of New Media is changing so rapidly that it can be difficult to modify the curriculum to keep pace with industry shifts.

4. Effectively integrating college wide initiatives, such as ePortfolio, into a major in which a vast amount of materials must already be covered.
Why Integrate ePortfolio into the program?

1. Portfolios are already commonplace within the field of New Media design for transfer and employment. This will just formalize the process and implement a final portfolio review by faculty. This review will prompt students to create a stronger overall portfolio and thereby improve employment and transfer outcomes.

2. By integrating the work from the college-wide core competencies into the portfolio, the student will be able to demonstrate educational and professional depth beyond pure technical competency.

3. To assist students in making better career and educational choices by prompting them to self-examine and reflect on their lives, their interests, and their passions.

4. To assist the college, the department, and the program in assessing how well we are instructing our students. The digital portfolio can be a benchmark on student growth, and as a result, a measure of program, departmental and institutional instruction.
New Proposed Curriculum

- Offer options for multiple career tracks while creating a curriculum that focuses in on critical career, technical, and personal skill sets.

- The creation of a flexible curriculum with a small core of critical courses and many open electives will enable students to design a course of study best suited to their skills, professional interests, or transfer goals.

- Mandate the establishment of a final professional portfolio before students graduate with a LaGuardia New Media degree. The final portfolio should represent the culmination of the student’s educational, professional, and personal achievements at LaGuardia. This portfolio can then serve as proof of professional and educational accomplishment for employers and transfer institutions.

- Work to establish a cross disciplinary approach with other LaGuardia departments to enable greater economies of scale (i.e. sharing of resources, knowledge exchange, cross training, etc) and produce a New Media graduate with a high caliber and professional digital portfolio.
Required New Media courses

- **CIS112 Introduction to New Media:** Introductory course in the major. This course will provide an overview of the New Media industry and the opportunities available in each sub-field.

- **CIS269 New Media Project Lab:** Capstone course in the Major. Students will revise and develop their final professional digital portfolio to assist them in finding permanent employment or transferring to a 4 year college.

- A total of 27 credits will be taken within CIS. There will be 6 required credits. The remaining 21 credits will be taken as electives based on the student’s field of interest and skill.
Elective New Media Courses

- CIS110 Systems Analysis and Design
- CIS111 eCommerce Technology
- CIS161 Principles of Multimedia and Web Design
- CIS162 Web Animation and Interactivity
- CIS163 Internet Video and DVD Development
- CIS166 Introduction to Web Development
- CIS167 Introduction to Dynamic Web Design
- CIS168 Advanced Dynamic Web Design
- CIS169 Internet Game Design
- CIS175 Introduction to Desktop Publishing
- CIS250 Database Programming and Concepts
Elective New Media Courses
(To be developed)

- CIS169 Internet Game Design
- CISxxx Gaming Theory
- CISxxx Compositing and Visual Effects
- CISxxx 3D Modeling
- CISxxx Sound Design
- CISxxx Teaching with Multimedia Technology
The Integration
The Integration

- ePortfolio is deeply tied to all of the courses within the New Media Program.
- Students must develop an enhanced ePortfolio, or a major portfolio project at each level of their technical development.
- In addition to developing technical skills, technology is used as a pathway to self expression and personal growth.
The Integration: Faculty Training

- As my father used to say..., keep it simple son (K.I.S.S.).
- Since ePortfolio is deeply tied to all of the courses within the New Media Program, and students must develop a major project in each course, all faculty need to do is identify a specific project to include in the portfolio and for assessment.
Portfolio assignment examples

- CIS 161: Principles of Web Design and Multimedia
- Students design a XHTML and CSS based free standing introductory portfolio.
Portfolio assignment examples

- CIS 162: Web Animation and Interactivity
- Students design an interactive multimedia based portfolio that includes sound, video, and animation.
Portfolio assignment example

- CIS 163: Internet Video and DVD Development
- Students design a video “about me” portfolio production that highlight their educational, professional, or personal goals.
The Culmination

- **CIS 269: New Media Project Lab**

- Designed as the Capstone course within the major. In this class students will finalize their professional portfolios and reflect upon their growth as digital authors. The self reflection should enable the students to prepare a targeted portfolio that should enable them to enter the job sector or transfer on to a four year college.
The Assessment
The importance of Assessment

• For the students
  • As a result of portfolio projects created over the course of their studies, students will be able to view and chart their growth and development.

For the institution

• Faculty will not only be able to assess student development, but also how well we are able to instruct those students over the course of their time at LaGuardia.
Questions and Answers