

# Engage Graduation Distinction ePortfolio Guidelines

Submissions for the Engage graduation distinction should be made in Sway. Each Sway ePortfolio should contain five sections: About Me, Career and Education Goals/Plan, Campus and Community Connections, Work/Academic Showcase, and Looking Forward.

Listed below are the components that should be included on each page. The prompts are to guide you in telling your MTSU story – you do not need to answer each one. Each section should be written as a narrative and not as a list or bullet-pointed responses.

Presentation Name: When you are creating your ePortfolio submission, your presentation name should be formatted as “Name Engage Senior ePortfolio.”

*This information can also be found at <https://www.mtsu.edu/engage/seniorrecognition/>.*

## **Section 1 – About Me**

Who am I? Description of Self

Describe yourself so that a prospective employer or graduate school admissions committee gets a good sense of who you are as a person. Include information about your interests, skills, values, and/or personality.

- Who am I? What factors contributed to who I am?
- What have I learned about myself thus far?
- What are my knowledge, skills, and abilities to date?

## **Section 2 – Career Goals and Plan**

Insert Your Resume

Look at the resume you submitted and think about the questions below.

- What are my career goals/future goals after graduation?
- What is my plan for reaching my goals?

## **Section 3 – Campus and Community Connections**

In this section, you will reflect on the campus or community experiences that have enhanced your college learning. Such experiences might include undergraduate research, study abroad, service learning, civic engagement, community service or other volunteerism, internships/externships (shadowing experiences), campus activities, and/or student organizations. This may include your within-the-classroom and beyond-the-classroom activities that are part of Engage courses.

**Address ONE of the three areas below: Campus Involvement, Academic Service Learning, or Civic Engagement Activities.**

### **Campus Involvement**

Identify and describe a campus activity that you have been involved with as a university student. Such experiences might include student organizations, Greek life, honor societies, or other campus activities NOT part of a course.

- Describe the campus or community experience. When and where it did occur? Why did the experience take place? Who was involved? What did you do? What did others do?
- What were the most important things you learned from this experience? In what ways did you increase your knowledge of yourself as a person, a learner, and aspiring professional and/or a citizen?
- Why is what you learned in this experience significant or important to you?
- How does what you learned from this experience relate to your educational and career goals or your discipline?
- Did you use anything you learned in coursework you've taken in this campus involvement? If so, give an example.
- How has your campus involvement influenced your professional development?

### **Academic Service Learning**

Identify and describe a social issue that is of interest to you and that you have been involved in either in class or as part of an organization. Outline root causes, those groups directly or indirectly impacted, and its potential solutions. Use at least one example from your experiences and study to illustrate your thinking in detail.

- Based on your experience and study on this issue, identify and describe the combination of resources, skills, knowledge, and people you believe are necessary to: (a) address the underlying causes of the problem; or (b) meet the needs of those affected by the issue.
- In thinking further about the social issue you identified above, discuss how your academic work to date (e.g., classes, projects, etc.) is aiding you to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to address this social issue in ways that foster inclusiveness, fairness, and active participation among community members. Make sure to include at least one example from your experience and study that supports your view.
- Based on your work thus far, describe any future plans you have to stay engaged with this issue or a related social issue following this semester. For example, did your experience move you to become an advocate for or against the issue? Make sure your response not only describes your answer but helps the reader understand reasons behind your thinking.

### **Civic Engagement Activities**

(e.g., volunteering or community service, political involvement, advocating for social change, informal community building)

Identify and describe a social issue that is: of interest to you AND that you explored through a civic engagement activity, program, or experience that you participated in as a student here.

- Based on your experience with this issue outside of class, identify and describe the combination of resources, skills, knowledge, and people you believe necessary to meet the needs of those affected by the issue.
- Address the underlying causes of the problem or outline the root causes of the issue, those groups directly and indirectly impacted, and potential solutions you see to this problem. Use at least one example from your experience and study to illustrate your thinking in detail.
- In thinking further about the social issue you identified above, discuss how your college experiences outside of class are aiding you to develop the knowledge and skills needed to address this issue in ways that foster inclusiveness, fairness, and active participation among community members. Make sure to include at least one detailed example from your experience that supports your view.
- Based on your beyond-the-classroom experiences at MTSU, describe any future plans you have to stay engaged with this issue or a related social issue after this semester. For example, did your experience move you to become an advocate for or against this issue? Make sure your response not only describes your answer but helps the reader understand the reasons behind your thinking.

#### **Section 4 – Work/Academic Showcase**

In this section, you will include artifacts that represent your key learning experiences in Engage courses and beyond. You should justify the inclusion of any artifact in this section by addressing the prompts below. This section should include **FOUR** artifacts (pieces of work) with evidence with each entry consisting of the following information:

- 1) Artifact/Work Example: Embed, attach, or link a course assignment, paper, project, creative piece, etc. that you judge to be strong evidence of your learning in your major or minor. Be sure that you include something you are proud of and want others to view as a representation of your best work. Your chosen artifacts do NOT need to be from your Engage classes.
- 2) Description: Describe the type of assignment and provide a brief synopsis of the artifact.
- 3) Knowledge/Skills/Abilities Gained: What skills, knowledge and abilities did you gain through this assignment/experience? What skills, knowledge, or abilities from your courses did you demonstrate as part of this assignment or experience? How might such skills, knowledge, or abilities affect you or be useful to you in the future?
- 4) Integration: How does this assignment/experience relate to other experiences you have had outside the classroom?
- 5) Lessons Learned: What did you take away from this key learning experience? Why is this important? What did you learn about yourself during this time?

#### **Section 5 - Looking Forward**

- Based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities you have developed at MTSU, what contributions do you envision yourself making in your future career or in your community/civic engagement?
- What can you offer that no one else can?