

Photography Portfolio Review
School of Communications
Department of Electronic & Photographic Media
Webster University

What is it?

Students interested in graduating with a B.A. in Photography in the School of Communications must be accepted into the school through the portfolio review process. Portfolio review is a **formal presentation of your best work** to a panel of faculty. It is meant to be a review of intermediate work, not senior-level work. Portfolio Reviews are held each semester.

When must I sign up for the Portfolio Review for Photography?

Students should submit their portfolios the semester after completing the following course work:

MEDC 1010 Introduction to Mass Communications

EPMD 1000 Introduction to Media Production

PHOT 1000 Photo I

PHOT 2000 Photo II

Three additional hours PHOT production (i.e., besides History of Photography)

What do I include in the portfolio?

Submit only your **best work**. Your portfolio should contain 12-15 selected pieces. These can be a combination of work done at Webster or another school, for class assignments or on your own. At least 1/3 of the work should have been done while you are a photo student at Webster. The important thing is to edit with care and include your strongest work in photography. **These must be pieces that you have printed yourself**, but can be either darkroom or digital prints.

We do not expect that you will show a portfolio of pieces that are all the same size and presentation format. Some may be matted, some not. Later on in your professional portfolio this matters a great deal. At this intermediate stage, we ask that you pay attention to the number of different presentation formats and sizes to ensure that your presentation is not chaotic. Limit yourself to 2-3 different presentation formats at most. (This works best by grouping images together.)

Do I have to write anything for portfolio review?

Yes. A very important element of the review process is your **portfolio statement**. Judged against strict writing standards, the statement should be free of typos, misspellings or errors in grammar or syntax. It should include your **career objectives**, evaluation of your strengths and weaknesses, and a mention of any relevant work experience.

The document should be double-spaced and approximately two full pages in length. Also include a copy of your degree audit.

Make two copies, and turn them in to Sharon Turner **no less than a week before** your scheduled portfolio review session.

How does the process work?

Sign up for PHOT 0100, Portfolio Review, when you register for classes. (It is zero credits, but registers you for the review.) There is an orientation meeting early each semester, and you will be able to sign up for a specific time for your review.

Important: Be aware that Drop/Add and Withdrawal deadlines apply. If you have not dropped or withdrawn, but do not show up for your review (or do not turn in your statement on time), you will receive a grade of WF, Unofficial Withdrawal. If there is a serious and unavoidable reason why you cannot do the review as scheduled, talk to us.

At the review, you will be expected to present your work to the faculty panel, so take charge of this presentation by thinking in advance of what you would like to say. Time is short, unfortunately, so be to the point. The faculty will also talk with you about your goals and your portfolio. They will ask questions based on the material provided in your portfolio review statement. The faculty will then confer privately, and then you will rejoin the faculty for feedback.

Criteria for Acceptance

The student's portfolio will be judged upon both the quality and presentation of the material.

What if I don't pass?

If you don't pass the first time, you can resubmit once for acceptance into the School of Communications. You must pass portfolio review to receive a degree within the department.

Purpose

- To ensure students admitted to the School of Communications have demonstrated the potential to accomplish quality work.
- To provide students with an in-depth appraisal of their performance in the major.
- To assist students in strengthening their education within their major.
- To encourage students to organize and present their portfolios before they face the job interview situations.
- To provide a process through which the School of Communications can ensure quality level work from their graduates.