Now that you are in the program, take every opportunity to strengthen your portfolio, replacing early art with more mature work, and expanding the variety of media and techniques represented. Get advice on this from your Conservator-Mentor and every conservator you find who is willing to look at your portfolio. Focused work on the portfolio happens in the senior year, but don’t wait until then to get started.

Your portfolio should ultimately demonstrate:

- Experience and comprehension of the entire conservation process from start to finish
- Understanding of and experience with preventative conservation
- Understanding of and experience with documentation and the reasons for each type of documentation
- Understanding of and experience with a variety of treatments
- Knowledge of conservation ethics
- Oral presentation skills
- Excellent writing ability, including grant writing
- Excellent research ability, including art, artists, history, materials & processes
- Technical skills in a variety of media
- Dexterity and attention to detail
- Patience, curiosity, responsibility, and perseverance