



PROGRAM FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING SUPPORT

15 Questions to Reflect Upon when Preparing a Teaching Philosophy Statement

1. Why are you writing a TPS?
2. Who is your audience?
3. What sets you apart as a teacher?
4. What teaching strategies do you most often rely upon? Why?
5. Why do you teach?
6. Why is learning important?
7. How do you decide what to teach?
8. How do you decide what strategies to use to teach a particular concept?
9. What are your goals for teaching?
10. How do you align beliefs with practice?
11. What teaching moment do you feel most dissatisfied about? How can you improve upon this?
12. What is your proudest teaching moment? Why?
13. What is the most significant thing that has happened to you as a teacher?
14. What strategies have you used to evaluate and gather feedback on the effectiveness of your teaching?
15. What areas of your teaching require improvement? Why? How do you intend to improve?

References:

Goodyear, G. and Alchin, D. (1998) Statements of teaching philosophy. In M. Kaplan (Ed.) *To Improve the Academy* 17: 103-122.

Schonwetter, D.J., Sokal, L., Friesen, M., and K.L. Taylor (2002) Teaching philosophies reconsidered: a conceptual model for the development and evaluation of teaching philosophy statements. *The International Journal for Academic Development*. 7:83-97.