



PROGRAM FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING SUPPORT

Developing a Teaching Philosophy Statement (TPS)

The Format of the Statement:

- Most philosophy of teaching statements are brief, one or two pages long at most.
- Most statements avoid technical terms and favor language and concepts that can be broadly appreciated.
- Narrative, first-person approaches are generally appropriate.
- The statement should be reflective and personal.

Components of the Statement:

The main components of the philosophy of teaching statement are descriptions of:

- How teachers think learning occurs
 - How they think they can intervene in this process
 - What chief goals they have for students
 - What actions they take to implement their intentions
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Conceptualization of Learning

- Describe what you think occurs during a learning episode, based on your observation and experience or based on current literature on teaching and learning.
- Use metaphors, draw comparisons with known entities to stimulate thinking. Draw comparisons with how students reach out and acquire knowledge and how teacher can provide a rich environment.

Conceptualization of Teaching

- Identify the role of the teacher with respect to motivation, content, feedback and assessment. Relate it to what you think occurs during a learning episode.
- How can the teacher respond to different learning styles, help students who are frustrated, accommodate different abilities.

Goals for Students

- Describing the teacher role entails detailing how the teacher can help students learn. Not only a given body of content, but also process skills, such as critical thinking, writing, and problems.
- Include thoughts on lifelong learning – how teachers can help students to value and nurture their intellectual curiosity, live ethical lives, and have productive careers.
- Finally, career and lifelong goals, such as teamwork, ethics and social commitment, can be detailed.

Implementation of the Philosophy

- An extremely important part of a philosophy of teaching statement is the description of how one's concepts about teaching and learning and goals for students are translated into action.
- Describe how you conduct classes, mentor students, develop instructional resources, or grade performance.
- Provide details on what instructional strategies you use on a day-to-day basis.
- You can portray what you want a student to experience in the classes you teach.
- Describe the qualities you try to exhibit as a model and coach, the climate you try to establish in the settings in which you teach.

Personal Growth Plan

- Include a section on your personal growth as a teacher.
- This illustrates how you have grown in teaching over the years.
- What challenges exist at the present, and what long-term goals are projected.
- In writing this section, it helps to think about how your concepts as well as actions have changed over time.
- Present the kind of teacher you would want to become.