

Teaching Philosophy Statement

Purpose

The teaching philosophy is a purposeful and reflective essay on your beliefs about teaching and learning and teaching practices.

Steps

Brainstorm, Write, Seek Input and Revise



Brainstorm

- What are your big teaching goals?
 - Make them specific to you
 - What motivates and animates you?
 - What do you want your students to get out of their time with you and why?
 - Make sure they reflect your beliefs about teaching
- How do you get to those goals?
 - Think about your assignments, activities, course materials, interactions with students, how you establish a class climate, etc.
- Evidence
 - What evidence do you have that what you're doing is working?
- Consider how your teaching promotes equity and inclusion
 - Think not just about ethnicity and socioeconomic status but about age, religion, academic preparedness, ability, gender expression and other identities.

Write

Do

- Keep it short - 2 pages double-spaced max
- Use a narrative, first-person approach
- Include specific examples: How do you enact your teaching beliefs?
- Show how you meet your goals through class activities and assessments
- Make it personal
- Be discipline-specific: How do you advance your field through teaching?

Don't

- Don't be vague. Ensure your audience has a clear sense of what you have done and how
- Avoid a recitation of your CV and instead focus on showing your audience who you are as an educator
- Limit the number of teaching goals you address (no more than 3-4 goals)

Seek Input & Revise

- Reach out for feedback from colleagues or CAT staff
- Think of this as a living document, not a "one and done" task

Questions?

For support writing a philosophy of teaching or to receive feedback on drafts, [schedule a consult](#) with a CAT staff person.