

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

Instructions

In approximately 600 words, write a statement on your teaching philosophy. A statement of teaching philosophy describes your current views and practice of teaching and learning. By definition, a teaching of statement philosophy has a personal but professional tone: you are sharing your views with (often senior) colleagues.

Content:

When writing your statement, please discuss those of the following issues that you find most important to your teaching:

- what you think teaching and learning in higher education should aim for, how you see your role as a teacher;
- how you are trying to attain the aim(s) of your teaching in your everyday classes;
- how you believe student learning should be assessed;
- what educational theory or principle you find particularly important and how you implement them in your teaching practice;
- what you consider your major challenge(s) while teaching (e.g. discipline specific issues, institutional constraints or procedures, being a beginner teacher, issues specific for your institution) and how you attempt to address these challenges;
- what links you see between your research and teaching;
- why and how you think you would like to enhance your teaching in the future.

You can find below a variety of ideas that help you write an effective statement of teaching philosophy. A teaching statement is effective when it is not only logical but also tell your story in a way that makes a good impression on the reader. If, after reading the suggestions below and checking out a few of the examples at the links provided, you feel you need further guidance, please, consult with your coach.

Lastly, we ask you again not to treat the first draft as a sketch of ideas but to make your best effort. While you will have the opportunity to improve your statement between the first and final drafts, the more advanced the first draft is, the better the final version is likely to be.

Formatting:

Font: size 12, Times New Roman

Spacing: Double-spaced

Margin: 1 inch (2.54 cm) on each side

How to Write an Effective Teaching Statement:

- If you have ever written a teaching statement before, it is a good idea to abandon that old statement and start anew.
- When discussing any of the points suggested in the “content” section, illustrate your beliefs with particular classroom examples where possible (i.e. show how you translate your beliefs into teaching practice).
- Avoid vague phrases (e.g. “I like teaching”, “I feel interested in teaching”, “I have always liked teaching”) without giving specific reasons and details or something that really expresses your beliefs and commitment or reflects your experience.
- Write a coherently structured narrative, rather than enumerate many ideas using bullet points.
- Remember to have an introduction, body and conclusion in your text even if, given the brevity of the document, you do not divide the document into separate sections.
- Let your text have a flow where sentences and paragraphs logically follow from one another and they are sufficiently connected.
- You can find a few examples and further advice on writing a good teaching statement on these websites: <https://cei.umn.edu/writing-your-teaching-philosophy>; <http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tstpum>; and [http://www.ucdoer.ie/index.php?title=Exploring Your Own Conceptions of Teaching and Learning/Introduction](http://www.ucdoer.ie/index.php?title=Exploring_Your_Own_Conceptions_of_Teaching_and_Learning/Introduction) (at the bottom of the page, click the link to the next page).