

Graduate Teaching Certificate Program

Workshop/Seminar Review Form

Date: 29 September 2021

Workshop/Seminar Title: Creating a Teaching Philosophy

Presenter/Facilitator: Kira Marshall-McKelvey and Deb Colbert

1. Explain the central topic and purpose of the workshop/seminar. What are the presenter/facilitator's goals for this workshop?

In this workshop, we learned about teaching philosophy statements. We discussed the purpose of a teaching statement, its elements, style, and structure, and how the statements are usually read and assessed. The facilitators wanted to give a preview into writing Teaching Philosophies to prepare us to write our own teaching philosophies.

2. What information in the workshop/seminar was most valuable to you?

The information in this workshop is really valuable as I begin to craft my own teaching philosophy. In particular, I found it instructive to think about the purpose of a teaching philosophy document. A teaching philosophy is a narrative of your conception of what teaching and learning are, how you teach, and a justification for the way you teach. This document should demonstrate what you think of as your purpose as teacher, be a reflection on teaching, and can also include your goals as an instructor and the strategies and actions you take in the classroom to achieve those goals. Since teaching philosophies are generally used in job applications, they should showcase your own beliefs, skills, and expertise in teaching. With the purpose of a teaching philosophy in mind, it was also instructive to think about how to structure and write a philosophy. Teaching philosophies are often best when structured around two to four big questions in teaching. These can be such things as your goals around student experience and engagement or broad learning outcomes. These big questions can then be broken into several pieces and you can use specific examples of how you incorporate each into your own teaching. By the end, you want to make the reader want to be a student in your class.

3. How will you connect that information to your own pedagogical endeavors?

Writing a teaching philosophy will be important for me when I start applying to jobs in which there will be a teaching component. This workshop directly helped me to start with an outline of my teaching philosophy and guiding principles on how to structure it. This workshop has also made me think more about the broad principles and philosophies that I want to guide my teaching. In my philosophy, I want to emphasize student sense of belonging and engaging critical thinking. Since these are my two big philosophies, this has made me think more about

how I use strategies to bring these into the classroom. The workshop got me to think about how these are tied into my goals for students, the methods I use to achieve these goals, how I assess student learning, and many other aspects of teaching. I will directly implement more strategies to engage the students in critical thinking and make sure they feel like they belong in my classroom in my teaching, because these themes were important to me in my philosophy.

4. After attending this workshop/seminar, what additional information would you like to seek about this subject?

One aspect of writing a teaching philosophy for the first time is to have examples of other teaching philosophies. During the workshop, we read two philosophies from one former student and one current professor. These statements were very different in their content, style, and purpose, but both were very good. These examples highlighted different things that I want to incorporate into my own philosophy. For example, I want to keep my philosophy to 2 pages, maximum. I also want to use headers to help provide structure and guide the reader. I also learned it was important to connect your philosophy to your own discipline, so I would connect my philosophy to how to teach science and also cite some prominent science educators. In reading these two diverse philosophies, I realize that I need to read more examples, to get different ideas of how I want to write my own philosophy and get a better perspective on how different structures and styles come across and what might work for different disciplines. After this presentation, I will seek out a few more teaching philosophies from other students and professors in my field to gain their additional perspective.