Teaching Philosophies

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September 7, 2010

Objectives

• Define teaching philosophy
• Examine key features of a teaching philosophy
• Develop a framework for your own teaching philosophy

Teaching Philosophy: Definition

• Self-reflective statement of your beliefs about teaching and learning

Teaching Philosophy: Description

• Describes your values and ideas about teaching and learning
• Discusses what you aspire to achieve
• Not the same as a mission or vision statement

Teaching Philosophy: Description (cont’d)

• Your conception of teaching and learning
• Description of how you teach
• Justification of why you teach the way you do

Why Have a Teaching Philosophy?

• 2 main purposes
  – Part of an academic dossier
  – Help you reflect on and improve your teaching
More Details about Teaching Philosophies

• Vary in length
  – Usually concise
  – Commonly 1-2 pages
• Narrative
• Living documents
  – Evolve along with teaching experiences

Questions to Consider...

• What is the role of my teaching philosophy?
• What is my motivation in teaching?
• Under what opportunities and constraints do I learn and do others learn?
• What outcomes do I expect of my teaching?
• What student–teacher relationship do I strive for?
• How do I measure successful teaching?

Questions to Consider...

• What habits, attitudes, methods mark my successful teaching achievements?
• What values do I wish to impart to students?
• What code of ethics guides me?
• What themes pervade my teaching?
• Under what practical opportunities and constraints do I carry out my role?

Teaching Philosophies: Key Concepts

• Why do you teach?
• What do you teach?
• How do you teach?
• How do you measure your effectiveness?

Your Teaching Philosophy

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