

Crafting a **Teaching Philosophy Statement** May 15, 2018 Jessica Harrell, Ph.D. jbharrel@andrew.cmu.edu 5 A teaching philosophy statement is... a commonly-requested academic job document. a unique and personal narrative about who you are as an instructor. a document that reflects your teaching experiences and practices. Goals for student learning What knowledge, skills, and attitudes are important for student success in your discipline? What are you preparing students for? What are key challenges in the teaching-learning process? Goals for student learning examples "I want students to leave my courses as creative and critical thinkers, ready to take on any engineering problem they face." "It is most important to me that my students gain an appreciation for chemistry. They should leave my courses with skills in a)..., b)..., and c)..." **Enactment of Goals (teaching methods)** What teaching methods do you use? How do these methods contribute to your goals for students? Why are these methods appropriate for use in your discipline? **Enactment of Goals examples** 12 "I favor small group activities where students have the opportunity to dive deeper into solving problems. For example, in my Calculus 1 recitation I would..." "Before I introduce a critical concept in class, I often assign a relevant reading. This way students come ready to ask questions." 13 Assessment of Goals



How do you know your goals for students are being met?

What sorts of assessment tools do you use (e.g., tests, papers, portfolios, journals), and why?

How do assessments contribute to student learning? How do assessments communicate disciplinary priorities?

14 Assessment of Goals examples

"At the end of a recitation I would take up the work students did in groups and provide feedback. This gave me a sense of the biggest tripping points and what to expect in office hours."

"At the end of the term I helped the primary instructor assess students' performances. I designed a rubric that we used to rate how well students met 3 key goals: ..."

15 Creating an Inclusive Environment

How do your own and your students' identities (e.g., race, gender, class), background, experience, and levels of privilege affect the classroom?

How do you account for diverse learning styles?

How do you integrate diverse perspectives into your teaching?

16 Creating an Inclusive Environment examples

"My students often come to my stats course with different levels of preparedness in Excel. I try to account for that by providing additional tutorials on Canvas."

"My ideal classroom is primarily a safe and comfortable place where students of diverse backgrounds and experiences are encouraged to share their thoughts."