

Teaching Statement

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As an educator in Finance, I aim to transform abstract financial concepts into practical tools that students can apply in real-world situations. I believe finance is most powerful when it moves beyond theoretical models and becomes a framework for solving real-life problems. Whether students are making personal investment decisions or managing large-scale corporate financial strategies, I aim to equip them with both a deep understanding of financial theory and the ability to apply this knowledge effectively in their careers and personal endeavors.

Teaching Approach

My teaching approach balances a focus on core details with a broader conceptual understanding, helping students build a comprehensive grasp of finance. During the summer session in which I taught as an instructor, I emphasized the details that underpin larger financial concepts. I encouraged students to engage deeply with the material, asking questions and articulating key ideas in their own words. This reflective learning process allowed students to solidify abstract ideas and develop critical thinking skills, moving beyond rote memorization to truly understand the material.

The big-picture aspect complements this detail-oriented approach by connecting these foundational concepts to broader financial frameworks. In my Investment Management course, I designed exam questions that required students to combine concepts from multiple chapters, giving them an opportunity to practice synthesizing different topics. This approach is essential for solving complex, multifaceted problems they may encounter outside the classroom, encouraging students to see how individual principles contribute to a cohesive understanding of finance.

Student Engagement and Inclusivity

Fostering an inclusive environment is central to my teaching philosophy. Recognizing the unique needs of students in a condensed summer course, I aimed to create a space where students felt comfortable asking questions and seeking help. Many students appreciated the informal office hours I offered to encourage one-on-one conversations, which provided them with additional support in a fast-paced environment. By being accessible both in and outside of class, I ensured that every student had the opportunity to succeed.

To further enhance engagement, I incorporated a variety of tools and technologies, such as recorded lectures and interactive polls, which received positive feedback from students. This approach allowed students to revisit challenging concepts at their own pace and engage more actively with the course material. These adjustments were particularly valuable in addressing the challenges of the accelerated summer format, creating a more inclusive environment that catered to diverse learning preferences.

Continuous Adaptation and Improvement

I view teaching as a dynamic process that evolves based on student needs and feedback, especially in an intensive summer course format. Throughout the session, I regularly solicited feedback to tailor my approach to the specific cohort. This flexibility enabled me to adapt the course to different levels of understanding, creating a responsive and personalized learning environment. As the course progressed, I refined my methods to enhance clarity and organization, ensuring that each session more effectively met student needs.

Students responded positively to these adjustments, noting that the course's structure and my teaching style became increasingly supportive and well-paced. By the latter half of the session, many expressed an appreciation for the course's organized layout, which allowed them to focus more intently on key concepts. This feedback underscores the value of continuous adaptation, reinforcing my commitment to refining my teaching approach to create a learning environment that fosters student engagement and comprehension.

Conclusion

In summary, my teaching philosophy prioritizes fostering a deep and practical understanding of finance through a balanced approach that incorporates both big-picture and small-picture perspectives. By creating an inclusive and responsive classroom environment, I aim to prepare my students not only for academic success but also for practical application in their future careers. Through continuous improvement, I strive to ensure that each course remains relevant and impactful, equipping students to confidently navigate the complexities of the financial world.