

TA TEACHING AWARD – PORTFOLIO INSTRUCTIONS

In an increasingly competitive job market, a good teaching statement can be a serious advantage. A teaching portfolio documenting teaching excellence can also aid you in the job market. Please submit a portfolio consisting of the materials described below. Please note that **your name should NOT appear anywhere in the portfolio**, as essays and other materials are reviewed anonymously.

- (1) An essay of at most 2 single-sided pages discussing your philosophy of teaching. You may wish to address the following questions:

- What are some qualities of good teachers?
- With the above list in mind, what are your strengths as a teacher?
- Which of the qualities in the above two questions are most important? Why?
- What classroom activities do you do? Why do you do them?
- What goals do you have for your students?
- What are the underlying principles you consider when teaching?
- What strategies have you used to implement these principles in one or more courses that you taught at the University of Illinois?

Effective teaching statements will have examples and evidence to back up their claims. Some resources for writing teaching statements:

<http://ucat.osu.edu/professional-development/teaching-portfolio/philosophy>

<http://chronicle.com/article/How-to-Write-a-Statement-of/45133>

- (2) Additional information that documents the quality of your teaching. Each item submitted should have one or two sentences **at the top of its first page** explaining why you chose to include it. **Please do not compile these comments onto a single page.**

Possible material includes, but is not limited to:

- An exam you have written, with solutions or comments about grading included.
- A worksheet you have written.
- Other materials to be included at your discretion: Other teaching awards, examples of teaching innovations, extracurricular class activities, printouts of web-based materials, handouts, etc.

This additional information must not exceed 10 single-sided pages.

Your portfolio materials should be typed and single-sided, but some legible handwritten comments such as solutions for an exercise are acceptable. Please do **not** staple your portfolio materials. The back sides of any pages will **not** be scanned or copied when your portfolio is processed for the committee. Include the cover sheet, longitudinal ICES scores, your essay, and any other supporting materials in an envelope (you can get one in 273 Altgeld). Again, please, make sure that any identifying information, such as **your name**, is **blacked out** of any material submitted except for the coversheet and longitudinal ICES scores, since it would interfere with the review process.

Please note that essays will be reviewed based on content only and use of the English language will **not** be considered.