

Developing a Community Engagement Philosophy Statement

*-Based on The Ohio State's Guidelines for Teaching Philosophy
Statements:*

http://ucat.osu.edu/teaching_portfolio/philosophy/philosophy2.html

Purpose of Philosophy Statement

- Writing a personal philosophy statement for engaged teaching/research/public service and outreach can help you to define your goals and to plot a course of action to attain those goals. It also can inform others that you are contemplative and purposeful in your approach to community engagement. The philosophy statement is the opportunity to pull together all the components of the Graduate Portfolio in Community Engagement.

Purpose of Philosophy Statement

- Gail Goodyear and Douglas Allchin (1998), in their study of the functions of a statement of teaching philosophy write,
- "In preparing a statement of teaching philosophy, professors assess and examine themselves to articulate the goals they wish to achieve in teaching. . . . A clear vision of a teaching philosophy provides stability, continuity, and long- term guidance. . . . A well-defined philosophy can help them remain focused on their teaching goals and to appreciate the personal and professional rewards of teaching." (pp. 106–7)

Components of Statement

- Your philosophy statement should include:
- Your conceptualization of engaged teaching/research/outreach- *How are these terms defined? What do these concepts actually mean to you?*
- Your goals for community engagement- *What do you want to accomplish for yourself...for the community...for the university?*
- Your current approach to engaged teaching/research/outreach- *At this point in your career, what have you done to try to accomplish your goals?*
- How community engagement links to your career goals
- How you will approach community engagement in the future- *Based on what you have learned through your experiences, courses, etc., how will you incorporate community engagement in your career?*

Tips on preparing your statement

- **Length.** Usually one to 2 pages
- **Write in first-person.**
- **Most statements avoid technical terms.** Favor language and concepts that can be broadly appreciated.
- **Include engagement strategies and methods to help people "see" you in the community setting.** Include very specific examples of strategies for engaged research/teaching/outreach that you have used. Help the reader to visualize what you do and the exchange between you and your community partners. This is not meant to be a list of what you have done; instead it is to give a picture of you accomplishing specified goals in community engagement.

Examples of teaching philosophy statements

- http://wwwctl.uga.edu/teachingassistant/ta_mentors/philosophy