College Teaching Certificate Program

The Chicago Center for Teaching offers professional development activities aimed at supporting graduate students and postdocs as they develop their approach to teaching. As a means of structuring and documenting this professional development process, the CCT offers the College Teaching Certificate (CTC) program, which outlines a pathway for teaching development during graduate training and postdoctoral work at the University of Chicago.

Objectives

This program aims to help graduate students and postdocs to:

1. Develop and critically reflect on their teaching practice as they take up teaching opportunities at the University of Chicago.
2. Discuss and appraise key pedagogical principles and frameworks and implement them in the design of a new course.
3. Receive formative and constructive feedback on their teaching.
4. Articulate a meaningful, inclusive, student-centered approach to teaching, expressed in a statement of teaching philosophy and demonstrated in a teaching portfolio.

Program Requirements

To register for the program, log the completion of requirements, and track your progress, you must enroll in the CTC Canvas site. The CCT also offers two specialized certificates. One in partnership with the Chicago Language Center, focuses on second language pedagogy. Another, in partnership with the Writing Program, has an emphasis in writing pedagogy.

I. Pedagogical Training

1. Orientation

- Attend Teaching@Chicago, our annual orientation event that takes place each September.

2. Reflecting on Teaching

- Complete at least 5 hours of teaching development programming by attending at least 3 of the 4 sessions in a Fundamentals of Teaching Series, participating in other workshops or events on teaching offered by the CCT, other centers on campus, or your department).
- Write a 500 to 700-word reflective essay that summarizes how your approach to teaching was shaped by participating in this programming.

3. Reflect on Inclusive Pedagogy

- Complete at least 1 stand-alone workshop on Inclusive Teaching offered by the CCT.
- Upon completion of a workshop on inclusive teaching, please write a 500 to 700-word essay reflecting on the ways that inclusive pedagogical practices inform your approach to teaching.

4. Course Design

- Complete "Course Design and College Teaching" (CCTE 50000)

II. Practice and Feedback

1. Teaching

- Complete two terms of teaching (this includes being a TA, CA, teaching intern, writing intern, etc.).

2. Observation and Feedback

- Participate in an Individual Teaching Consultation (ITC)

III. Document Your Teaching

1. Prepare a Statement of Teaching Philosophy and Teaching Portfolio

- Participate in the Seminar and Workshop on Teaching Portfolios

2. Essay on Inclusive Pedagogy

- Submit an updated draft of your reflective essay to include with your teaching portfolio. The updated version may include new thoughts on promoting an inclusive and welcoming classroom environment, an assessment of specific inclusive strategies you have been able to incorporate into your teaching, and/or a description of how considerations of inclusion and diversity shaped the materials of your teaching portfolio.

3. Submission of the Teaching Portfolio

- Once all requirements have been satisfied, please submit your final teaching portfolio via Canvas to certify your completion of the program. CCT staff will review your materials, certify that you have completed all requirements, and issue your certificate.