

What is a teaching statement?

A teaching statement is a 1-2 page concise discussion of your teaching. It is *not* a rehearsing of your vita (i.e. “I taught these classes at x term at y university...”). Rather, it provides a search committee with a snapshot of your pedagogy in practice.

There are many guides available for writing teaching statements. [This one](#) from the University of Texas’s Faculty Innovation Center is a good starting place. It is general and not overwhelming.

Yale’s Poovu Center for Teaching and Learning provides a great [sample structure for a teaching statement](#).

The University of Michigan’s Center for Research on Learning & Teaching has [many, many sample letters](#) for your to peruse

And finally, if you’re looking for how *not* to write a teaching statement, see [The Dreaded Teaching Statement: Eight Pitfalls](#) from *The Professor Is In*.

What is a diversity statement?

A diversity statement is a 1-2 page statement that explains your experiences with and commitments to teaching diverse populations of students. Because “diversity” is a broad term, a good place to look for clarity is to the universities that ask for them as part of the job materials.

The Writing Center at UNC Chapel Hill, which has [an excellent discussion on diversity statements](#), suggests that you ask:

- Does the university have a diversity statement on its website?
- Does the university have a diversity and inclusion office? If so, what is its mission statement?
- How has the university’s alumni magazine discussed the current student population?
- Does the office of institutional research publish public reports about diverse populations?

Even without institutional clarity, however, you can draft a great statement. Use these guiding questions from the University of Pennsylvania’s Career Services to help begin the drafting process:

- What does diversity mean to you, and why is this important?
- Do you understand the university’s diversity goals?
- What have been some of your experiences either being part of a non-majority group, or interacting with diverse populations?
- How has your thinking about diversity actively influenced your teaching, research, and/or scholarship?
- In thinking about the different roles you have played, and will play, as part of your university service, what role has/will diversity issues play?
- What role do you believe that advising and mentoring play in working with diverse populations?
- Does your engagement with diversity help students prepare for careers in a global society?

Here are [sample statements](#) from The Ohio State’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and [another set](#) from the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Teaching and Learning, which can help

you think about this document. One very important note about these materials is that not all are excerpted from diversity statements. Some are pulled from job letters and teaching statements. The takeaway: *diversity is not something to be bracketed off from the rest of your job materials. Diversity can and should be woven into your job letter, CV, and teaching statement.*

If you're looking for further guidance, *Inside Higher Ed* has very good discussions on diversity statements that are [conceptual](#) and [practical](#).