Effective Teaching Seminars

Both the Certificate in University Teaching Skills and the Foundations Certificate in University Teaching Skills require participants to attend several Effective Teaching Seminars (ETS). Designed specifically with the objectives of the Certificate Program in mind, seminars offered by the Center provide opportunities for participants to learn best practices for teaching at the university level.

More interactive than most lectures or presentations, ETS sessions are perhaps best thought of as graduate-level seminars or workshops. Ultimately, Effective Teaching Seminars provide opportunities for participants to enhance their understanding of what constitutes transformative teaching, to learn from an experienced faculty member, and to work collaboratively with others in the Certificates program. ETS sessions:

- Are interactive, facilitating hands-on activities and opportunities for participants to engage with the topic, the facilitator, and with the other participants
- Leave participants with new strategies to apply in their own teaching
- Encourage participants to reflect on their own teaching practice and on the lessons learned in the seminar
- Focus on practical teaching topics relevant to teaching at the university level
- Are applicable to more than one discipline
- Meet one or more of the Certificates’ objectives (see below)
- Are facilitated by a SLU faculty member (or CTTL staff member)

Participating in ETS sessions also offers an ongoing opportunity to critically reflect on one’s own perspective on various teaching topics and to consider new perspectives from experienced teachers. Because of this, we encourage participants to spread out their ETS attendance over multiple semesters and choose topics that are most interesting and applicable to them.

Intended Audience

While the main audience for ETS sessions is comprised of participants in the Certificate in University Teaching Skills, all SLU faculty (full- and part-time), instructors, graduate students, and teaching staff are welcome to attend.

ETS Schedule

4-6 ETSs are offered per semester. Each ETS is offered twice in one week:

- Tuesday from 1:30-3:00pm
- Friday from 1:30-3:00pm

We also offer 1-2 ETS sessions that partner with SLU Madrid per semester; these are generally offered on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30am, with limited seating available.
Earning ETS Credits

- Participants in the Certificate Program attending an ETS for credit must arrive on time, sign in, and stay for the duration of the seminar.
- Certificate Program participants may earn ETS credit for attending a workshop or seminar on teaching elsewhere, such as an academic conference. Review the Substitution Credit Policy before attending the alternate event.
- The Teaching with Technology Forums is a Reinert Center series of short interactive sessions aimed at exploring how technology might be used in support of a teaching goal. All faculty and graduate students are welcome to attend. Certificate participants can earn credit for one Effective Teaching Seminar by attending three sessions. (This replacement can only be used for one ETS.)

Seminar Topics

Individual topics and speakers will vary; however, each ETS contributes to the objectives for the Certificate Program.

Certificate Program Objectives

The requirements for the Certificate in University Teaching Skills Program are designed to create the occasion for participants to meet the following objectives over the course of at least two semesters. Because of the inherent flexibility in the Foundations Certificate, it is the participant’s responsibility to choose from the range of Effective Teaching Seminars offered in order to ensure he/she will meet all of the following objectives.

- Identify and analyze different learning and teaching styles.
- Discuss and apply various methods to assess student learning outcomes and teaching.
- Consider productive faculty-student relationships.
- Identify and integrate different uses of digital technology in teaching and learning.
- Recognize different uses of service learning for discipline specific outcomes.
- Acquire knowledge about fundamental classroom teaching skills, including lecturing, managing discussions, and other active, experiential, and collaborative learning techniques for a variety of teaching contexts and environments.

The requirements of the Certificate in University Teaching Skills are meant to ensure that participants meet the following additional objectives as well:

- Design a discipline-specific course and syllabus with appropriate instructional methodology and measurable learning objectives. (* Certificate in University Teaching Skills only)
- Assemble a professional teaching portfolio that includes a statement of teaching philosophy and other pedagogical artifacts stemming from the program requirements that demonstrate their teaching competencies. (* Certificate in University Teaching Skills only)