Purpose/Rationale for Course:

The purpose of the course is to prepare doctoral students for effective teaching of Social Work courses at all levels of higher education. Doctoral students need practical skills, a theoretical base, experience, and confidence in order to improve their teaching performance and enhance their marketability. The course is designed as an elective and is based on the assumption that good teaching can be taught.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand and articulate philosophies and theories of adult education
2. To develop teaching strategies and skills based on learning outcomes and styles of learning, including syllabus design, use of technology, assignments, grading and evaluation of students, lectures, and small group discussions and activities.
3. To develop a teaching philosophy and portfolio.
4. To learn options for effectively managing classroom dynamics
5. To incorporate diversity principles into the content, context, and conduct of class.
6. To identify and resolve ethical issues in teaching/learning, including boundary issues/plagiarism, etc.
7. To utilize supervision, mentoring, student feedback, and self reflection to improve one’s own performance.
8. To develop an awareness of one’s own strengths and preferred teaching style, and how to adapt that style to student learning styles.
9. To learn various methods of evaluating and providing evidence of effective teaching.
10. To understand the basic context of social work education, including CSWE accreditation standards.

Required Topics

Theory, philosophy, and concept of Adult Education.
Learning styles: understanding, assessing, and supporting.
Course design: syllabus, topics, pacing, assignments, evaluation, lesson plans, flexibility, effective use of class and preparation time.
Ethics in teaching/learning
Creating positive classroom dynamics
Diversity issues in the classroom.
Tools for evaluating effective teaching