

Teaching & Learning Unit

Mission, Value & Teaching Philosophy Statements, 2023-2024

Mission Statement

The mission of the MSU Libraries' Teaching & Learning Unit is twofold:

- to foster student learning by supporting analytical thinking, integrated reasoning, and effective communication through effective use of information
- to support the development of MSU librarians in the area of teaching and learning

Value Statement

As a unit, our goals and objectives are driven by the following values that reflect a land-grant and "world-grant" philosophy:

1. Enhancement of the student experience: keeping the learner first in the design, functionality, and usability of physical and virtual materials, activities, physical space, and pedagogy.
2. Commitment to best practices and excellence in teaching and learning: facilitating authentic learning at the user's point of need, and accurately identifying, understanding and meeting user-generated learning needs.
3. Diversity and access: help in providing accessible and inclusive spaces and resources, accommodating learning styles, and tailoring products and services to their appropriate audiences. Cultivate a climate of safety, empathy and respect.
4. Positive mediation and service: providing positive mediation between the library user and information resources, advocating for the library and its services, and valuing each user's experience, questions, and time.

Teaching Philosophy Statement

Our unit philosophy incorporates the following beliefs about learning and how those beliefs are implemented, including our role as facilitators of analytical thinking, integrative reasoning, effective communication, recursivity in research and guided inquiry.

Our beliefs about learning:

- Learning must always be student-centered and contextual, demonstrating relevance to identified student needs
- Guided inquiry is integral to engaging students in the process of making and negotiating meaning
- Coordination of learning outcomes, pedagogy, and assessment of student needs ensures the highest quality of information literacy teaching and learning
- Information literacy is an essential component of analytical thinking, integrated reasoning, and effective communication
- Work to strengthen teaching, learning and curricular partnerships across campus

How our beliefs are implemented:

- We seek to facilitate inquiry by creating opportunities for meaningful engagement with information, drawing out questions about its nature, creation and functions
- We seek to create safe and open learning environments based on the cycle of inquiry — response, seeking out new information, and creating new knowledge —fostering skills for iterative and recursive approaches to research
- We seek to facilitate students' discovery of information, stimulate inquiry, and provide support for integration and use of information toward the goal of effective communication
- Leading out in support of institutional excellence, we work toward interdisciplinary efforts in highlighting information literacy's role in undergraduate education