

## **Jennifer Dempsey**

### **Personal Teaching Statement**

My teaching philosophy starts with the heart of each student and that learning can be and should be fun. I strive to personally connect to each one, engage with them on academia and personal topics, and create a safe/inclusive environment for class discussions and active learning. I want my students to not only learn what is covered in our textbooks but also how these theories relate to the real business world. I know our students are eager and hungry for real-life applications and examples. To me, this is the best way to “connect the dots” for our students. Over the past few years of implementing this process, I can see how they are truly learning the material and therefore, will become future leaders in industry.

The STEM/Create Path to the MBA classes are set up to encourage diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and learning styles. This interaction is critical since I believe students can learn just as much from their peers, so I always encourage participation and host an environment for meaningful dialogue. I have received feedback from students numerous times on how my classroom feels like a “safe space” and how they feel supportive to express themselves while learning in their own unique ways.

My strategies within the classroom are constructed by asking myself questions such as “how would I like to learn this material?” “What current events are going on right now that can connect with this?” “Do I have any contacts that might be able to share their experience?” and so forth. During every class session, my goal is to use some type of active learning or experimental method. For example, I use our innovation projects to educate the students on real-world applications. These projects allow our students to use all their technical and creative skills learned in and outside the classroom to complete their goals. Other examples include debates, small group work, guest speakers, games, brainstorming activities, field trips, character/teambuilding exercises, and creative presentations to further their education on the material.

I have three main objectives as a teacher. 1- to prepare my students for graduate-level MBA coursework, 2- learn and improve critical thinking, analytics/research/creative skills, and 3- grow and become the best person they can be before going out into the world. I tell my students that college is like adulthood with training wheels. I want them to be fully confident when the day comes to take the wheels off.

My teaching goals for the next three-year reappointment period include the following:

- Evolve recruitment strategies for the Create to the MBA students
- Expand my personal touch by establishing a specific STEM/Create volunteer opportunity
- Based on conditions, launch the UA in Scandinavia or similar program
- Connect with industry and on-campus leaders/researchers/faculty to expand senior project partners, internships, and other opportunities for students