

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice

Credit Unit Statement

The Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PCAP) aims at staff who teach and/or support learning of students who are studying at the tertiary level. The PCAP offers to university teachers an opportunity to get an academic qualification in teaching and learning in higher education through engagement with reflective practices, exposure to effective curriculum and learning design in higher education, exploration of student learning in higher education, and development of scholarship in teaching and learning.

This programme is modeled on similar programmes on teaching and learning in higher education in other universities around the world. These programmes do not have electives. They offer a wide range of optionality within all courses instead, allowing the candidates to specialize in or work on the areas of their interest and their respective disciplines. The programme has four core courses. Typically, a course involves classroom contact hours/online interaction, reading, studying, peer observation, researching and minimum one writing assignment. The candidates are expected to complete them on part-time basis in two years. The contact hours, study load and assessment loads for each course are listed below.

- Course 1: Teaching in higher education: professional development (6 credits)
 - This course involves 24 - 36 contact hours; 120 - 150 hours of study load; written output: around 3,000 words, or equivalent for non-essay tasks
- Course 2: Student Learning in Higher Education (6 credits)
 - This course involves 24 - 36 contact hours; 120 - 150 hours of study load; written output: 2,500 words; other assignment: presentations
- Course 3: Effective Curriculum and Learning Design in Higher Education (12 credits)
 - This course involves 48 - 72 contact hours; 240 - 300 hours of study load; written output: 2,500 words; other assignment: presentations
- Course 4: Project (6 credits)
 - This course involves 12 - 18 contact hours; 120 - 150 hours of study load; written output: 5,000 words, or 4,000 words and a poster

In total, the PCAP may involve 108-162 contact hours, 600-750 hours of study load and around 13,000 word written assignment. The above indicates a range of the contact hours, study load and words required for written assignments. The actual timetabled contact hours, study load, and requirements on the written assignments for each course may vary slightly.

The details about each course are outlined below:

I. Teaching in Higher Education: Professional Development (6 credits)

Candidates are provided with a systematic introduction to the professional development of university teachers such as teaching portfolios, academic identities, continuous professional development, scholarship of teaching and learning, peer observation, reflection on teaching practice, care and emotions in higher education, developing leadership in learning and teaching, etc. A range of assessment tasks will be used which may include the following: peer observations and reflective assignments, etc. Normally the total word length of assessment is 3,000 words or equivalent.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

II. Student Learning in Higher Education (6 credits)

This course introduces major concepts on autonomy-support and the regulation of value, pursuit and support of students' goals, cognitive load, mindsets and self-efficacy with instructional strategies that work, emotions in the classroom, interest and its development, and so on to help candidates develop practice-based understanding of student learning in higher education. The candidates will integrate their practice-based understanding with their actual practices in teaching, applying the professional development practices discussed in XXXX1001 to reflect on their experiences.

A range of assessment tasks will be used which may include the following: in-class presentations, case analysis, and reflective assignments, etc. Normally the total word length of the written assignment is 2,500 words.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

III. Effective Curriculum and Learning Design in Higher Education (12 credits)

This course discusses effective curriculum and learning design in the context of higher education to help candidates develop practice-based understanding of university teaching. The candidates will integrate their practice-based understanding in their actual teaching context, apply the concepts in the curriculum/learning design, and reflect on their experiences through the application of professional development practices discussed in XXXX1001.

A range of assessment tasks will be used which may include the following: in-class presentations, case analysis/problem-solving, and reflective assignments, etc. Normally the total word length of the written assignment is 2,500 words.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

IV. Project (6 credits)

This course is a 6-credit project with 12 - 18 contact hours. It helps candidates develop scholarship of teaching and learning in the context of higher education. Candidates will work in groups to explore the issues in their teaching, evaluate the effectiveness of their practices through empirical studies and report the results through written assignment. Normally the total word length of the written assignment is 5,000 words.

Assessment: 100% coursework.