Before enrolling in the PFF program, I was nervous about speaking in front of a classroom. However, the program helped build my confidence as I became more knowledgeable on pedagogy and instructional technology. Through my practicum, I was able to secure a full-time lectureship which led to a tenure-track faculty position. Without the PFF program, I doubt I would be where I am today.

Dr. Justin Yates
Assistant Professor, Psychological Science, Northern Kentucky University (Highland Heights, Kentucky); May 2013 Graduate of the GCCTL

As an international graduate student in the U.S., I had little or no idea about the education system here. The PFF program at UK not only introduced me to the various institutional types and job responsibilities of faculty, but also helped me gain useful insights about various fascinating ways of achieving pedagogical excellence.

Dr. M.T. Islam
Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Southern Connecticut State University (New Haven, CT); December 2016 Graduate of the GCCTL

For anyone interested in teaching, completing the GCCTL is a wise choice. Even though I completed this certificate 10 years ago, I still continually use the pedagogical theories and practical, accessible information both inside and outside my classroom.

Dr. Sara Police
Assistant Professor, Pharmacology & Nutritional Sciences, University of Kentucky; May 2009 Graduate of the GCCTL

FOR MORE INFORMATION including a list of courses and guidance on applying to the GCCTL curriculum, visit gradschool.uky.edu/preparing-future-faculty or contact Dr. Morris Grubbs at 859-257-9725 or morris.grubbs@uky.edu

Morris A. Grubbs, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean, The Graduate School
Administrative Director, PFF and GCCTL

Jeffery P. Bieber, Ph.D.
Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation
Faculty Director, GCCTL

Linda K. Worley, Ph.D.
Professor of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Faculty Director Emerita, GCCTL
Preparing Future Faculty

PFF provides in-depth guidance to graduate students and postdocs who wish to prepare holistically for a faculty position. Emphasis is on understanding the full spectrum of work across research, teaching, and service and discerning the key similarities and differences in institutional types:

- Research Universities
- Regional Comprehensive Universities
- Independent Colleges & Universities
- Community Colleges

Coursework

Students may take the following courses individually (except GS 699) or as part of a set (totaling 12 credit hrs) leading to a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning (GCCTL).

Core Courses:

GS 650: Preparing Future Faculty (2 credit hrs)  
The principal course offering students the background, language, and tools necessary for understanding and gauging individual and institutional fit.

GS 610: College Teaching Seminar (1 credit hr)  
A hands-on course focusing on best practices in college teaching. (If available, an approved departmental pedagogy course can be taken instead.)

GS 699: College Teaching Practicum (3 credit hrs)  
A mentored teaching and/or extended shadowing experience at UK or a nearby institution.

Some Options for Elective Courses:

- EPE 674: Theories of Student Development (3 credit hrs)
- EPE 653: History of Higher Education (3 credit hrs)
- GS 600: Preparing Future Professionals (2 credit hrs)
- GS 620: Seminar on Teaching in the 21st Century (special topics course, 1-2 credit hrs)
- GS 630: Instructional Technology (1 credit hr)
- CI 616: Foundations of Instructional Communication (3 credit hrs)
- Other GS and EPE courses may be used with approval

Considering Careers Beyond the Faculty Track?

For students who wish to explore or more fully prepare for a wider range of career paths, The Graduate School offers a course titled Preparing Future Professionals (GS 600; 2 credit hrs). Students have the opportunity to interact with a variety of guest speakers who are putting their PhD to work in a diverse range of careers. Workshops are also offered periodically on identifying and articulating transferable skills gained in research and teaching, sponsored by the Graduate School and the College of Arts & Sciences’ Careers Beyond the Professoriate program.

Tuition Funding for PFF/P Courses

For graduate students funded as TAs/RAs/GAs, tuition coverage for PFF/P courses is included as part of a full-time enrollment package. Tuition coverage for PFF/P courses is also included for TAs who are post-Qualifying Exam (enrolled in 767), with approval of the Graduate School’s funding office. Questions? Contact Dr. Morris Grubbs at morris.grubbs@uky.edu.

Recent Disciplines Represented

- Animal and Food Sciences
- Anthropology
- Biology
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Clinical Psychology
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Creative Writing
- Education Sciences
- Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation
- English
- Exercise Science
- Experimental Psychology
- Family Sciences
- German
- Higher Education
- History
- Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences
- Interior Design
- Kinesiology and Health Promotion
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Musical Arts
- Nursing
- Nutritional Sciences
- Pharmacy Practice and Sciences
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Rehabilitation Sciences
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Veterinary Science

Competition for tenured faculty positions can be brutal. However, the knowledge and experience garnered through PFF provides an edge above the competition during the hiring process.

Dr. Juanita Wallace  
Assistant Professor, Exercise Science, Transylvania University (Lexington); December 2017 Graduate of GCCTL

Dr. Amber Hale  
Assistant Professor of Biology, McNeese State University (Lake Charles, LA); May 2014 Graduate of the GCCTL

In PFF I learned in depth about other types of institutions where most new faculty land. Looking back now after three years in my position, PFF prepared me well for the challenges I face as a faculty member. I also gained skills that many of my peers do not have.

2018 Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning Recipients

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