Student College „SelfiE – self-learning competencies for more success“  
Student Support Program for Improving Quality in Teaching

1  Concept and Goals

By the start of summer semester 2019 the student college “docendo discimus – learning by teaching!”, which had been founded in the faculty 7 at the university of Koblenz-Landau, was converted into the interdisciplinary student college “SelfiE - self-learning competencies for more success”

The Student College „SelfiE“ within the Faculty 7 and the department of Anglistics (faculty 6) has the goal to support students and instructors in improving on the quality of teaching. Students, who want to deepen their own understanding by teaching others, can apply to the Program with their own innovative teaching ideas. Application is open to all students having studied at least one subject within faculty 7 during their Bachelor’s. Members of „SelfiE“ will be employed via a research assistant contract providing around 300 Euro (before taxes) per month for 6 months, and are guided through their teaching project by an experienced mentor. Members also participate in a set of coordinated programs, which support them in furthering their self-learning competencies exchange of experiences with peers and continuing education offerings. The Student College has the following specific objectives:

1. Expansion and depth of course offerings in the Faculty 7 and of the department of Anglistics in faculty 7 that align with the students’ and instructors’ needs (e.g., Tutorials, exercises, participating in existing courses, etc.)

2. Students’ advancement: integrated offerings on „self-regulation and self-learning strategies“ as courses led by tutors.

3. Support of students as member of the College: fellows teach existing courses as part of the “learn through Teaching” idea (achieving deeper knowledge of subject matter, supporting their academic independence, their interest and motivation in the subject matter and social competencies)

4. Support of instructors as members of the College: support in the teaching, feedback from guiding the student member and growth as a mentor

2  Offerings

2.1  Guided teaching

Fellows lead existing courses. In order to achieve the learning objective through teaching, about 4 hours (SWS) of teaching is recommended.

2.2  Mentoring

Fellows are guided through their teaching by experienced instructors, who serve as mentors. Mentors meet with fellows at least at the beginning, middle and end of the semester in order to plan and organize the course as well as to reflect how the project will be implemented.
2.3 Group mentoring

Participating fellows meet regularly to exchange experiences. The group is led by the College Coordinator.

2.4 Group retreat and kick-off seminar

Also at the beginning of the Program period, a group retreat along with the kick-off of the semester will be held. Additionally, other seminars may be offered. These will be organized by the Coordinator along with the Leadership Committee. Suggestions and remarks from fellows are welcomed. Main points of the kick-off seminar include:

1. Input on the topic of self-learning competencies (managing effort, strategies for planning, monitoring and regulating learning, elaboration and help-seeking behaviour)
2. University didactics (learning theories, formulating objectives for courses, time management of courses, semester planning and planning individual class meetings)
3. Reworking the teaching concept by the fellows
4. Presenting the teaching concept by the fellows, with feedback

3 Organizational structure

3.1 Announcing the support programs

The application period runs once a year at the end of the semester.

The support period: 01.10-31.03 for the winter semester and 01.04-30.09 for the summer semester. Application deadline is 2 weeks before the end of the semester prior to the beginning of the supported semester.

The program is publicized through email, student unions and instructors and posters. Students interested in deepening their understanding through teaching others can propose their own teaching ideas as part of their application. To do this, one has to identify a willing instructor to which the idea will be connected and who will serve as mentor for the applicant. Applications are submitted as a PDF to the Dean’s office (Dekanat).
3.2 Application materials

- Application includes the following (as a single PDF):
  - CV/Resume (1 page)
  - Document of exams results (KLIPS-Grades)
  - Motivation letter and teaching idea (max. 2 pages)
    - What motivated you to take part in teaching?
    - What personal goals tie in with the Student College?
    - What concepts do you want to apply?
      - What is the target group of your course and where and in which major is your course
      - Objectives of the course: Which competencies should the students be able to demonstrate by the end of the course?
      - Content focus: What content is the course supposed to cover? How does your teaching idea align with the description in the Module of the major?
      - Applying the didactic methods: How will the objectives and course content be covered?
      - How are self-learning competencies of the participants being integrated thematically?
  - Comments by the mentor (via the rating rubric)
    The rating rubric is completed by the mentor and is submitted directly by them via email. (see Part 6)

3.3 Selection

The selection of applications is done by the Leadership Committee. The following selection criteria will be used:

- The concept of the teaching idea (content and methods, rating scale 1-5)
  - To what extent are the objectives obtainable during a semester?
  - To what extent do the objectives align to the study plan of the students (target group)?
  - How well does the content match the descriptions in the Module of the major?
  - To what extent are the didactic methods applied/aligned to the objectives?
  - How achievable are the didactic methods
  - In how far are self-learning competencies thematized and mediated?
- Your own motivation, orientation to the needs of the students as well as the prerequisites and the ability to apply the teaching idea (judgement of the mentor -> rating rubric)

Successful applicants are members of the College for a full semester. A second semester is possible.
4 Rating rubric to be completed by the mentor

The rating rubric is to be completed by the mentor, who is responsible for submitting the rubric directly via Email to fb7@uni-landau.de

Applicant’s Name: _____________________________________________________

1: Strongly agree, 2: Agree, 3: Neutral, 4: Disagree, 5: Strongly disagree

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<tr>
<td>The applicant possesses the necessary disciplinary competence related to the proposed teaching idea.</td>
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<td>The applicant has the ability to present complex disciplinary concepts such that beginners will be able to understand</td>
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<td>The applicant has the ability to lead a course</td>
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<td>The applicant possesses organizational talent</td>
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<td>The applicant has good time-management skills</td>
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<td>The applicant can appropriately address questions related to course content</td>
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<td>The applicant shows enthusiasm for the course content</td>
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Summary recommendation

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<td>I can highly recommend the applicant for acceptance into the Student College</td>
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<td>I can highly recommend the applicant for acceptance into the Student College</td>
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<tr>
<td>I do not oppose acceptance of the applicant into the Student College</td>
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<td>I cannot recommend the applicant for acceptance into the Student College</td>
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Mentor’s Name: _____________________________________________________

Date and Signature: _______________________________________________
### Time line

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 19</th>
<th>July 19</th>
<th>August 19</th>
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<th>October 19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Application announcement begins 27.06.19</td>
<td>Semester ends 20.07.19</td>
<td>Application deadline 02.08.19</td>
<td>Kick-Off-event 16.10.19</td>
<td>2nd meeting of mentors and fellows</td>
<td>Semester ends 15.02.20</td>
<td>Closing reflections</td>
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<td>Selection process Leadership Committee by 21.08.19</td>
<td>Comments returned to applicants and mentors by 26.08.19</td>
<td>Semester begins 21.10.19</td>
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<td>Planning events</td>
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