

Teaching Philosophy

Kali Lentz, Ph.D.

For me, being a lifelong learner is one of the most important opportunities we have as human beings. Whether the opportunity lies in a formal education setting or presents itself in a short article or video, I am always pushing myself and others to keep learning and growing. I have a strong passion for education and plan to continue my educational pursuits through both teaching and formal learning until I am no longer able.

The ideal classroom environment truly depends on the learner. For some, a traditional setting with rigid structure works best, while others need more flexibility and hands-on practice. I have learned to be a more effective instructor for adult learners by offering multiple modalities but always centering learning around shared learning experiences. When students create these shared learning experiences, they create organic accountability and the opportunity to learn from multiple viewpoints is readily available. Additionally, there is a natural competitiveness that comes out to drive engagement. Finally, students form professional relationships with peers that can be mutually beneficial throughout their tenure. When shared learning experiences are not an option, I provide students with resources that allow them to apply what they're learning to real situations they could encounter in their future career.

My goal as a teacher is to provide an environment that fosters effective knowledge transfer, offers an environment of safety to learn and make mistakes, and builds student confidence. I create this environment through honest yet kind feedback, real-life application opportunities, the promotion of inclusion, and the flexibility to be human.