

Perceptions of Teaching as a Profession – Version 2

Here are a number of statements that may or may not describe your beliefs about teaching. You are asked to rate each statement by selecting one of the following options:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

Choose one of the above five choices that best expresses your feeling about the statement. If you don't understand a statement, leave it blank. If you have no strong opinion, choose Neutral.

1. I know at least one professor in my department who thinks Grade 7-12 teaching is a valuable profession.
2. I know who to talk to at my college if I want to become a Grade 7-12 teacher.
3. My department would be proud if I became a Grade 7-12 teacher.
4. Professors in my department discuss teaching as a career option with students.
5. Professors in my department encourage students to consider Grade 7-12 teaching.
6. If I told my advisor I wanted to be a Grade 7-12 teacher, s/he would encourage me.
7. If I became a Grade 7-12 teacher, I would not be making the most of my degree.
8. If I were to become a Grade 7-12 teacher, I would give up being a scientist.
9. Teaching is “scientific” in that you test materials with your students, learn from the results, modify and try again the next year.
10. I owe it to myself to try a career in my degree field before I try to teach.
11. I would like a career where I help people.
12. Grade 7-12 teaching is a good back up plan for me.
13. Those who go into Grade 7-12 teaching tend to be academically weaker students.
14. Grade 7-12 teaching is a good career choice in general
15. Grade 7-12 teaching is a good career choice for me
16. I think Grade 7-12 teaching would be fulfilling in general
17. I think Grade 7-12 teaching would be fulfilling for me
18. I would be proud to tell people that I am a Grade 7-12 teacher.
19. What fraction of Grade 7-12 teachers remain in the profession after 5 years?
 - a. 28%
 - b. 41%
 - c. 59%
 - d. 79%
 - e. 90%
20. As a Grade 7-12 teacher, I would be paid as well as other careers using my degree.
21. How much do you think a Grade 7-12 science teacher's pay is in your state?
 - a. <\$30,000
 - b. ~\$40,000
 - c. ~\$50,000
 - d. ~\$60,000
 - e. >\$70,000
22. What do you think your starting pay would be if you graduate with a bachelor's in your current major?
 - a. <\$30,000

- b. ~\$40,000
- c. ~\$50,000
- d. ~\$60,000
- e. >\$70,000

- 23. I know what types of benefits (retirement, time off, health insurance) Grade 7-12 teachers receive.
- 24. Grade 7-12 teachers have competitive benefits compared to other careers.
- 25. Grade 7-12 teachers can retire comfortably and not have to work after retirement.
- 26. Grade 7-12 teachers can retire comfortably before age 60.
- 27. Grade 7-12 teaching would be intellectually stimulating.
- 28. I think I would enjoy Grade 7-12 teaching day to day.
- 29. I think I would become bored with grade 7-12 teaching.

This set of 4 questions will have a 6th option of “Does not matter”

- 30. If I went into Grade 7-12 teaching, my peers would be supportive.
- 31. If I went into Grade 7-12 teaching, my family would be supportive.
- 32. If I went into Grade 7-12 teaching, my professors would be supportive.
- 33. I want to become a Grade 7-12 teacher.
For what reasons?
- 34. I want to become a college teacher.
For what reasons?
- 35. Getting a teaching license is a difficult process that takes too much time.
- 36. I plan to pursue teacher certification at my institution.
- 37. I plan to pursue teacher certification through another route.
a. If so, where?

If you plan to pursue teacher certification, Skip to #43

- 38. I would become a Grade 7-12 teacher if the pay were equal to my other career options.
- 39. I would become a Grade 7-12 teacher if the hours were better.
- 40. I would pursue teacher certification if I did not have to take extra time to graduate.
- 41. I would pursue teacher certification if I did not have to spend extra money.
- 42. I know that I could never be a Grade 7-12 teacher.
- 43. Some people enjoy organizing things, or gardening for the sake of doing the activity. Repetitive lab tasks are this way for me. Lab tasks could be mineral separation, titrating, microscopy, building robotics, etc....
- 44. I enjoy working with people.
- 45. I enjoy working with teens.
- 46. For the most part, other people are friendly.
- 47. We use this statement to identify people who are not reading the statements before answering. Please choose “agree” (option 4) not “strongly agree” to preserve your answers.
- 48. I could become a great Grade 7-12 teacher.
- 49. I might become a Grade 7-12 teacher after pursuing another career first.
- 50. Grade 7-12 teaching is a stable career choice.
- 51. As a Grade 7-12 teacher, I could find a job almost anywhere.
- 52. Grade 7-12 teaching is more stressful on average than other careers.
- 53. Nearly everyone is capable of understanding math and science if they work at it
- 54. Many students just don't have the natural ability to succeed in my subject area.
- 55. Almost all students can learn any subject with dedication.
- 56. You cannot be a good teacher unless you can entertain.
- 57. Very strong students should not waste their skills on teaching, even if they have the motivation to enjoy the profession.

58. I was inspired by a great Grade 7-12 science or math teacher.

Demographics:

59. I am currently in my _____ year in college:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, >6

60. I am currently pursuing my

Undergrad, masters degree, doctorate degree

61. I am:

Male, Female, Prefer not to answer, Other _____

62. I identify as:

Hispanic or Latino, Not Hispanic or Latino

63. I identify as:

Black or African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, White

64. I am majoring in:

65. The name of my institution is: