

# The Enlightened Educator: Strategies for Academic Teaching Success

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this study is to illuminate the best way to become an ideal academic teacher today. Additionally, it examines the role of teachers in academic settings. The purpose of this research is to determine the importance of 21st century teachers' digital competence qualifications. Teachers' professional qualifications include professional knowledge, professional practise, the integration of ICT (information and communication technology) into the teaching profession, and professional learning ethics and values. In this paper, digital skills are assessed in relation to academic fields as a means of enhancing education. A teacher's success depends on a variety of general skills, including cognitive and social communication skills, deep thinking skills, more efficient thinking skills, professional attitudes, professional learning competences, and personality and ideology competences.*

**Keywords:** *cognitive skill, deep thinking skill, digital competence, general skill, perfect teacher*

## Introduction:

A teacher is the artisan who builds the talent of a nation. Teachers are invaluable resources for the nation because of their intellectual labour. Even though it is difficult to give a definite definition of an ideal teacher, there are several characteristics that can be observed in an ideal teacher. A discussion of the characteristics of perfection is provided below.

## Quality of a perfect teacher:

A set of sustainable qualities and qualifications, consisting of professional knowledge, practical skills, beliefs, values, and attitudes, makes the ideal teacher qualified and enables him/her to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to him/her in the field of education. However, teaching qualifications are primarily concerned with the role of the teacher in the classroom. In order to be an ideal teacher, one must master vision and attitude perfectly.

Quality of a perfect teacher	Digital competence to be a perfect teacher
	Professional attitude
	Professional Learning / literary competence
	Personality and ideology competence

**Figure:** Qualities of a perfect teacher

## Digital competence to be a perfect teacher:

In today's world, digital competence has changed the way people live their lives; it has made their lives easier and happier. The use of information and communication technologies has also added a new dimension to education. Students at this village school also learn in the classroom on the computer as well as by reading books. In order to build sustainable education, digital technology must be used to improve the overall quality of education. In order to train skilled workers to international standards, particularly in technical education, digital technology must be utilised. By using digital technology in the classroom, learning and teaching activities have become easier, more enjoyable, and more effective. Digital technology focuses on sophisticated instruments and knowledge-based science. By using multimedia, students will be able to gain a deeper understanding of this subject since it can be presented on

a large scale. A multimedia system is expected to be installed in all classrooms of the polytechnic institute in the near future. It will be a digital learning environment where students will be able to learn. The use of digital technology in the classroom should not be viewed as a substitute for the teacher but rather as a complement. It is expected that teachers will learn how to collect digital information from the Internet. It is possible to create and utilise content in multimedia classrooms in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of learning activities. Technology should be used in the classroom, and its benefits should be recognised.

### **The importance of 21st century teacher's digital competence qualifications:**

Teachers need to proficiently handle various digital media forms, including videos and digital images. They should be adept at sourcing, creating, editing, and displaying such content using free or online tools. They need to navigate a variety of electronic devices suitable for information technology and be skilled at keyword utilisation for efficient information retrieval. Other important capabilities involve finding and leveraging online repositories of free images, evaluating web-based content suitable for lessons, creating diverse presentations, and handling digital audio. Teachers should be competent in formulating action plans based on student performance data, growing their professional skills through online networking, verifying web content for classroom use, and guiding students in using various web browsers and file formats. Utilisation of file sharing tools and teaching students to share databases for collaborative annotation are also crucial skills. Moreover, teachers should be competent in creating and displaying infographics and using simulations to support student development.

In terms of higher efficiency in teaching, teachers should be proficient in using digital tools to gather research aids, share content with students, create digital quizzes, and create instructional screen capture tutorials. The effective use of group messaging tools for work coordination, creating annual educational calendars using digital tools, and making tutorials accessible to students through screen-casting tools are also pivotal skills to maximise productivity and enhance teaching effectiveness.

Efficiency can be significantly boosted through the use of various digital tools. The general skills of digital literacy revolve around the proficient use of free software and online tools. For instance, teachers can use the OBS Studio software for capturing videos and use YouTube as a source of educational videos. The ability to create and modify digital images is another essential skill, and tools such as GIMP and Canva offer free, intuitive platforms for this. Familiarity with various electronic devices, including but not limited to laptops, tablets, and smartphones, allows teachers to adapt to diverse IT applications in education. Furthermore, understanding and utilising effective keywords can significantly enhance the searchability and visibility of educational content online, a crucial skill in this era of information overload.

The use of online repositories, like Pixabay and Unsplash, equips teachers with a wealth of printable images for instructional purposes. The ability to navigate the vast digital landscape, identify, and evaluate web-based content suitable for teaching is fundamental. This skill involves critical thinking and discernment to determine the credibility and relevance of sources. In line with this, the proficiency to prepare and deliver varied presentations using software like Google Slides or Microsoft PowerPoint is vital. Additionally, the creation and editing of digital audio can supplement teaching, with tools like Audacity.

Cognitive and social communication skills pivot on the understanding and application of safe, user-friendly online educational resources. Websites like Starfall and ABCmouse provide a myriad of educational activities suited for younger students. Teachers must also prioritise cybersecurity, which includes knowledge about password protection, avoiding phishing scams, and educating students about these precautions. They can leverage digital sticky note tools like Google Keep to make their notes visually engaging and memorable. Importantly, educators have the responsibility of ensuring students understand copyright laws when using any software to promote responsible digital citizenship.

Assessing student performance and creating data-driven action plans are achievable through tools like Google Classroom. In the age of networking, professional skills development can be supplemented by interacting with colleagues on social networking sites like LinkedIn or education-focused platforms like Edmodo. Teachers must be proficient in verifying and selecting appropriate web content for classroom use, a skill closely tied to teaching students how to evaluate online sources. Facilitating document sharing through platforms like Google Drive or Dropbox is another integral part of modern-day teaching. Additionally, teachers should demonstrate how students can collaboratively annotate databases, fostering a cooperative learning environment.

Real-time polling software like Poll Everywhere allows for immediate feedback, facilitating on-the-spot adjustments to teaching methods. In addition, teachers should be capable of creating and displaying infographics, using platforms like Canva or Piktochart to visually represent data. Simulations, available in textbooks or educational video games, can stimulate students' intelligence and talents. Furthermore, teachers should be well-versed in safe and user-friendly online educational resources. They should maintain online safety while operating in a digital environment, use digital note-taking effectively, and instill in students an

understanding of copyright laws. They must also ensure plagiarism-free work by using relevant tools, seek continuous self-development through online resources, and create valuable online resources for students, such as class Wikis. They should also be equipped to check for plagiarism using tools like Turnitin to maintain academic integrity.

Teachers can collect research aids and academic papers using Google Scholar, assemble notes and content, and share it with students through platforms like Google Classroom. They can also create digital quizzes using tools like Kahoot for quick comprehension checks. Screen capture tutorials can be made with free or online software like Screencast-O-Matic, and group messaging tools like Slack can enhance collaborative work. Additionally, digital calendars, like Google Calendar, can help organise the academic year, while screen-casting tools can be used to make tutorials accessible to students. All these digital skills combined form the backbone of a modern, efficient, and engaging learning environment.

### **Professional attitude of a perfect teacher**

In pedagogy, a teacher's proficiency is primarily based on their professional conduct, which encompasses factors such as punctuality, organization, preparation, and an overall positive attitude towards their duties. A successful educator engages with students effectively, ensuring open and respectful communication while maintaining a level of discipline conducive to a structured learning environment. Moreover, the proficient teacher is responsible for creating a learning environment that facilitates and stimulates learning. To achieve this, it is necessary to create an environment in which students are encouraged to employ critical thinking skills and to seek clarification through inquisitive discourse. The teacher's role extends to serving as a motivator and an inspiration to students, nurturing a passion for learning. In addition, they should provide constructive feedback and support tailored to the needs of each student, thereby ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to achieve their academic goals.

Furthermore, a competent teacher demonstrates a willingness to perform duties beyond their primary responsibilities, whether it is through extending their availability outside of normal working hours to assist struggling students or actively participating in supplementary professional events to demonstrate their commitment to teaching. In addition to exhibiting excellent communication and interpersonal skills, they should possess current knowledge of the discipline in which they teach. In order to enter the teaching profession, individuals should have a deep understanding of and proficiency in their field of interest. At the beginning of a teaching career, it is important to develop a professional attitude. It is possible to catalyse the transformation of a novice teacher into an accomplished educator with a sustained commitment to honing this professional behaviour. There is, however, little chance that those who view teaching as a temporary occupation, devoid of professionalism and integrity, will contribute meaningfully to educational objectives. They will also not achieve pedagogical excellence.

Essentially, the archetypal teacher must personify professional decorum, embody a positive attitude, cultivate a stimulating learning environment, provide appropriate feedback and support, demonstrate commitment beyond their basic obligations, and possess a range of skills. An educator who embodies these characteristics is invariably well positioned for success in their profession.

### **Professional Learning / literary competence**

Education is an ever-evolving field, and teachers must remain on top of the latest research and advances in their respective fields through continuous professional development. A profound understanding of contemporary pedagogical methods and recent research findings is necessary to understand the intricate dynamics of educational evaluations, their consequences, and the fluidity of curriculum. In order to generate inventive insights from novel viewpoints, knowledge acquisition should be rooted in modern methodologies. Such an approach empowers educators with a creative disposition to engender innovative outcomes in their classrooms. This transforms any subject matter into an avenue for scholarly exploration. Expert educators are committed to reviewing their subject matter in depth on a regular basis. A fundamental aspect of their professional identity is their intellectual curiosity and reflective practice. The development of effective teaching skills requires a forward-looking and strategic approach to planning.

A strategic blueprint for developing these skills is necessary for success in this endeavour. It is beneficial to seek feedback from expert peers or mentors whose values align with one's inherent talents and career goals. The planning process can be significantly enhanced by such informed insights. A comprehensive and systematic approach is required to acquire teaching skills. As a result of this holistic approach, teaching abilities are developed exhaustively and thoroughly. In spite of the challenges of this path, it is essential for the development of adept and effective teachers.

### **Personality and ideology competence**

Teaching quality is significantly impacted by a teacher's personality and ideology. A teacher's personal philosophy fosters their professional abilities, inspiring innovative energy and passion for teaching. Teachers also play various roles in students' lives beyond education; they are mentors, friends, and influencers, shaping students' life philosophy and guiding their endeavours. For example, when a teacher believes in the power of collaboration and innovation, students may be encouraged to work collaboratively rather than focusing on individual achievement to solve problems. Notably, a teacher's personality nurtures students' cognitive abilities and promoting cooperation, friendship, and emotional unity among them. Successful teachers possess certain personality traits and ideological competencies that foster a conducive learning environment. They exhibit patience, empathy, and the ability to personally connect with students, cultivating an atmosphere of trust and respect. Students may be encouraged to take risks and express new ideas if their teachers exhibit a sense of humour and a positive attitude towards learning. From an ideological perspective, these teachers are well-versed in their respective subjects, staying updated with the latest advancements and integrating this knowledge into their teaching. They understand the importance of assessment and monitoring student progress, providing both feedback and positive reinforcement. For example, during a math class, a teacher may create a quiz that assesses students' understanding of a particular concept and then provide students with customized feedback. Effective teachers can also adapt their teaching style to accommodate their students' varied learning styles. They motivate their students by setting and guiding them towards their goals. These teachers can encourage collaboration and community within the classroom. During a lesson, an effective teacher may have students work in small groups to discuss a topic, offering them the opportunity to learn in a way that is convenient for them. Moreover, successful teachers are open-minded and creative. They embrace cutting-edge ideas and strategies and encourage their students to do the same. They are confident, willing to acknowledge their mistakes, and constantly striving to improve. In essence, a successful teacher is a harmonious blend of personality traits and ideological competencies that foster an engaging, nurturing, and progressive learning environment. A successful teacher, for instance, will be able to maintain the interest and motivation of their students by using a variety of teaching methods, such as project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, and problem-based learning.

#### **Conclusion:**

Digital competence is essential for a successful teacher, as it enables him/her to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to him/her in the classroom. It can be divided into general skills and information technology knowledge. Teachers need deep thinking skills to effectively use technology in the classroom. These skills include collecting and displaying videos, creating and editing digital images, finding and evaluating website-based content, preparing and presenting presentations, and creating and editing digital audio. Teachers should be able to use tools to collect research aids, create digital quizzes, create screen-capture tutorials, use group messaging tools, create annual education calendars, and make tutorials available to students through screen-casting tools to become successful teachers. Teachers must acquire professional knowledge through current methods, research results, educational examinations, curriculum, social and cultural change, personal prosperity, and community and environmental development. Planning is essential to acquiring skills, while personality and ideological competence contribute to teachers' professional development.

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