



GET TO KNOW THE:

New TA Training by L&S

Training Goals & Outcomes

L&S New TA Training helps TAs acquire the knowledge, skills, and confidence to cultivate engaged, equitable environments where all students (and teachers!) can thrive.

By participating in the training, TAs will be motivated and equipped to be effective and inclusive teachers.

TAs will also be able to:

- Apply effective and sustainable teaching practices to their own teaching context
- Use proven strategies to create learning opportunities and environments where all students have an equal chance to thrive
- Build confidence in their own skills to successfully navigate classroom challenges
- Identify essential campus policies and resources
- Use basic Canvas features relevant to their role
- Connect personally with peers from across the college and work with an experienced TA mentor

At-A-Glance

In-Person Training

- August: Thursday before classes start
- January: dates and format vary; [check our website](#)

Online Asynchronous Training

- Canvas site opens at least two weeks before the live training
- Resource of key pedagogical principles & campus policies

We Also Offer a Returning TA Workshop!

- Separate curriculum for TAs with UW teaching experience to continue developing their skills
- Offered every August
- For more information [see our website](#).

What We Cover: Live Training

WELCOME SESSION

- Welcome from Dean Wilcots & L&S

CAMPUS PARTNERS PANEL

Consider case studies and ask questions with guests from:

- Office of Student Assistance and Support
- University Health Services
- L&S Office of Inclusive Excellence
- McBurney Disability Resource Center

SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

Small group workshop session, led by an experienced L&S Teaching Mentor:

- Learning activity demo: the importance of clear communication
- Teaching materials workshop
- Learning activity demo: equity in the classroom
- Case study discussion focused on common teaching challenges

EXPERIENCED TA Q&A

Connect with experienced TAs and discuss any remaining questions!

Contact Us

Assistant Dean for Graduate
Student Academic Affairs
Lynne Prost

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Please reach out with any questions or suggestions for our training.

We are also happy to share any of our in-person or Canvas content with department staff!

<https://teachlearn.ls.wisc.edu/tas/>

Overview

Preparatory Materials

The TAs work through a series of modules that prepare them to actively engage during the live training.

Lasting Resource

The modules also serve as a sustained resource that TAs can go back to throughout the year as they encounter new teaching situations.

Canvas Modules

Crash Course in Pedagogy

This Module provides a basic foundation in pedagogical principles, along with examples and tips for applying these principles in different teaching settings (discussion sections, labs, and office hours). Topics include:

- Student-centered learning
- Teaching all students
- Sustainable teaching practices, including grading sustainably
- Establishing community by learning student names, using effective icebreakers, setting expectations
- Backward design and how to implement it: learning outcomes, assessments, and learning activities

Putting It All Together

In this Module, TAs pull together what they learned in the Crash Course in Pedagogy to think through the process of their own teaching. Topics include:

- Steps for lesson planning
- Preparing to teach
- Facilitation
- Follow up
- Navigating disruptions

Canvas Basics

In this Module TAs learn about the basic features of Canvas, including the option to practice in a “Sandbox” Canvas course. Topics include:

- Update your Canvas profile, pronouns, and notifications
- Use Canvas to communicate with students
- Student engagement through Canvas discussions
- Share and organize content on Canvas
- Collect assignments and grade work (Speedgrader)

TA Policies and Resources

This Module prepares TAs to identify and remember essential policies relevant to their TA role, and identify supportive resources for answering questions and helping students. These include:

- Employment and HR policies
- Disability, accessibility, and accommodations (including McBurney Center)
- Academic policies and student support (advising, tutoring, career services, financial aid)
- FERPA
- Academic misconduct
- Misconduct, harassment, and hostile behavior (Office of Student Conduct, Title IX, HIB)
- Campus safety (UWPD, active threat preparedness)
- Health and wellbeing (UHS services)
- Students in distress (Dean of Students Office, suicide prevention training, crisis support)
- Resources for international TAs