

How Teaching Can Help You Survive Graduate School

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Searle Center
for Teaching Excellence
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Overview

- How Can Teaching Help You?
- Common Questions
- How to Survive Your First TAship
- Balancing Research & Teaching
- Support for Teaching at NU

How Can Teaching Help You?

- Experience for your CV
- Interact with motivated undergraduates
- Sense of accomplishment
- Practice & develop your skills
 - Critical thinking, facilitation, explanation, planning
- Explore & expand interests
 - Explore ideas for your research
- It's fun! And intellectually rewarding

Common Questions

- How are TAships assigned?
- What are typical TA duties?
- How to respond to questions about grades?
- Opportunities to guest lecture?
- Other questions?

How To Survive Your First TAship

- Attend the New TA Conference
- Participate in Troubleshooting Your Teaching
- Get observed by a Graduate Teaching Fellow
- Take advantage of your students' knowledge
- Seek multiple forms of feedback
- Look for multiple role models
- Use the Center's online resources
- Have fun!

Balancing Teaching & Research

- Discuss expectations up front (yours & theirs)
- Monitor the hours you spend TAing (15 hrs/wk)
- TA classes related to research, if possible
 - Better to have a broader range of classes
- Seek opportunities to guest lecture
- Designate time for training/teaching

How Can the Searle Center Support Your Teaching?

- Help graduate students, postdocs & faculty
 - Promote active learning
 - Research-based
 - Cross-disciplinary conversations

What support do you need?

- As a New TA:
 - Address concerns & learn the basics of teaching
- As an Advanced Graduate Student:
 - Develop your teaching skills
- As a Junior Colleague:
 - Prepare to become a professor

Searle Center Programs for Graduate Students

- New TA Conference
- Troubleshooting Your Teaching
- Individual Observation and Consultation
- Graduate Workshop Series
- Teaching, Learning, and Technology
- TA Fellows
- Graduate Teaching Certificate Program
- Graduate Teaching Fellowship

Searle Center for Teaching Excellence

- **Contact the Center**

- Phone: 847-467-2338

- Email: teach@northwestern.edu

- Web: <http://www.northwestern.edu/searle>

- Twitter: @searleteaching

- **Visit the Center**

- 1 block N of Noyes, ½ block W of Sheridan

- Across from International Office