

Graduate Teaching Fellows: Preparing Future Change Leaders

Kate Williams, David Lawrence, Terri Dunbar

The Program

The Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTF) Program is a future faculty professional development opportunity for advanced graduate students with extensive teaching development experience who contribute to the Georgia Tech Center for Teaching and Learning's (CTL) programs as peer leaders.

Our Goals

- Expand CTL's institute-wide impact by training and embedding graduate leaders within academic units following a hub-and-spoke model.
- Provide advanced graduate students with deeper expertise in teaching and learning by serving as ambassadors for CTL.
- Prepare future faculty for positions in educational development and other leadership opportunities in higher education

Program Stats

- 60 classroom observations by GTF per semester
- 400 new TAs trained by GTFs yearly
- 10 GTFs selected annually
- 15 hours of summer training completed
- \$1500 stipend awarded to each GTF each semester

Campus Projects



Facilitating Classroom Discussions

(History and Sociology)

Challenge:

- Faculty and graduate student instructors desire greater confidence in facilitating classroom discussions.

Outcomes:

- Faculty survey
- Graduate student and faculty workshop
- White paper and website resources



Preparing for Unexpected Teaching Situations

(Psychology)

Challenge:

- Lack of training for new TAs and instructors on unexpected teaching situations.

Outcomes:

- Catalog of faculty experiences
- Practice scenarios
- Reference guidebook



Curricular Alignment

(City and Regional Planning)

Challenge:

- Redundant or disjointed course material frustrates students.

Outcomes:

- Focus groups with faculty, students, and industry representatives
- Comprehensive learning objectives for Environmental & Health concentration



2019-2020 Graduate Teaching Fellows and Faculty Advisors

Assessment Plan and Early Results

Quantitative Assessment

- TA Orientation evaluations
- Number of classroom observations conducted
- GTFs summer training evaluations
- Attendance and feedback about workshops/resources created

Qualitative Assessment

- GTFs complete end-of-year exit survey
- Classroom observation feedback and Tech to Teaching certificate portfolios

Feedback from GTFs

"I gained a lot more experience in engaging others about pedagogy, which has informally led to numerous discussions around teaching in my own department and across campus. Talking about teaching with others has led to more people reflecting on their teaching, from my experience."

"Learning how to write concise feedback write-ups that celebrate fellow instructors' wins while also acknowledging their opportunities to grow and improve was something I know I'll use again in the future."

"I learned how to converse with my fellow faculty about student-centric learning and ways to discuss the proper procedures for evaluating teaching effectiveness. I also am leaving this year as a GTF with a much greater appreciation for fostering a great university teaching and learning culture through observation and feedback procedures."