Graduate School Teaching Seminar Assistantships

GRSC 7770 provides graduate teaching assistants with the opportunity to develop their teaching skills and a forum to discuss discipline-related teaching strategies and challenges. Departments are responsible for conducting sections of GRSC 7770 or a departmental course designated to meet discipline-specific needs.

The Graduate School offers 2/9th assistantships to award-winning graduate teaching assistants who will help develop and teach sections of GRSC 7770 in their college or departments during the fall semester. The purpose of the one semester-long teaching assistantship is to encourage the discipline-based development of new GRSC 7770 seminars and to encourage innovative course redesign for existing GRSC 7770 seminars. The Graduate School annually offers 10 of these partial assistantships for the fall semester only (2/9th assistantships to which departments must add 1/9th).

An announcement calling for applications will be announced on the Departmental GRSC 7770 listserv in the spring semester for the following fall. The evaluation rubric for selecting sections for partial funding requires the nomination of a qualified graduate student and emphasizes the creation of new sections or the revision of existing sections, and the level of faculty involvement in the course. According to UGA Academic Affairs policy (4.07–13), TAs may co-teach GRSC 7770 with an approved faculty member.

Please note that assistantships are associated with the graduate student specified on the application. If a different graduate student replaces the one nominated on the application form, departments must re-submit their application for the assistantship to the Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning no later than a week before the beginning of the semester.

For information about developing a GRSC 7770 in your department or being added to the Departmental GRSC 7770 listserv, contact the Assistant Director of TA Development and Recognition for the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Criteria
Graduate School Teaching Seminar Assistantship applications will be considered on the following criteria.

Applicants must have:

- had significant teaching responsibilities in two classes in different semesters;
- at least 18 hours of course work in a discipline related to the department in which the teaching seminar is being held;
- fulfilled UGA’s TA Policy;
• successfully completed a teaching course, either GRSC or departmental equivalent, at UGA or at another higher education institution; and
• been recognized with a departmental or university wide teaching award (includes being nominated for UGA's Excellence in Teaching Award).

Strong departmental applications will meet the following criteria. The course is:

• a new course that has not existed in the department before or has not existed in the last two years and is not replacing a teaching course with a department prefix.
• a revised course with a major change in course design (e.g. shift from a parade of guest speakers; shift to team-based learning; addition of demo teaching; inclusion of SoTL elements, etc.).
• serving a unique population, meaning the course resides in a department with a unique or specialized teaching duties for TAs; a unique TA population (e.g. ITAs); an expectation of high GRSC enrollment (e.g. 20+ students); and/or a course with potential to support TAs from a variety of departments (e.g. accepting ILS students).
• a course of exceptional quality utilizes SoTL resources and provides opportunities for teaching practice along with feedback and reflection.

Applications must have departmental commitment, including:

• a faculty member as teacher of record for GRSC 7770 who will work closely with the TA in the development and co-teaching of the seminar;
• department chair endorsement and a departmental requirement that all new TAs and LAs in the department take the seminar during the Fall semester that funding is received;
• departmental support of 1/9th so the TA can receive the reduced matriculation fee, and
• Commitment and attendance of both the faculty member and the graduate student nominated on the application to attend one of the two 3-hour workshops on GRSC 7770 during the summer (ideally together). Workshops, open to all GRSC 7770 instructors, will be held in June and July at the CTL.

Please note:
• Applicants wishing to create new GRSC 7770 sections or applicants supported by faculty members teaching GRSC 7770 for the first time will have additional course development training with CTL staff (mandatory for the TA and highly recommended for the faculty co-instructor).
• In order to maximize the number of TAs to receive this opportunity, first time applicants will be prioritized.

The application for the Graduate School Teaching Seminar Assistantships opens annually during spring semester and can be found on the CTL’s website.

For questions or for more information, please contact Dr. Zoe Morris, Assistant Director of TA Development and Recognition at zoe.morris@uga.edu.