Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

The Center for Teaching and Learning administers the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (OTA), sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction. This award recognizes the top 10% of teaching assistants demonstrating superior teaching skills while serving in the classroom or laboratory.

The nomination period for the OTA opens annually in November (visit the CTL website for current deadline). Departments may nominate up to 10% of their TAs for this award. Only candidates who have demonstrated superior teaching skills should be nominated.

Nomination Criteria

Departments may nominate up to 10% of their TAs for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (1-10 TAs = 1 nominee; 11-20 TAs = 2 nominees; 21-30 TAs = 3 nominees, etc.) Questions regarding the number or eligibility of candidates should be directed to the Dr. Zoe Morris (706-542-0534, zoe.morris@uga.edu).

- At the time of nomination, the student must have
  - met all TA Policy requirements for training and language screening;
  - demonstrated superior teaching skills while serving as an instructor of the classroom or laboratory;
  - had significant teaching responsibilities for at least two terms at UGA. One of these terms must have occurred during or after the academic year immediately previous to the semester of nomination. The spring semester of the nomination deadline cannot count towards the two terms requirement.

- Previous recipients of the award are not eligible.
- Nominees must be currently registered full time.

The nomination must be submitted by the announced deadline using the appropriate nomination form. This nomination form requires endorsement by the department.

Nomination Process

Nomination Form: The Graduate Coordinator* must nominate the graduate student using the online nomination form and must be completed by nomination deadline. All fields must be filled out in order for the candidate to be considered. It is the responsibility of the nominee to provide the Office of the Graduate Coordinator with all required information in order for the form to be completed. The nomination is complete upon submission of the above survey; no additional nomination materials are required for this award.

*Units that do not have Graduate Coordinator but wish to nominate their teaching assistant(s) for the OTA should contact Dr. Zoe Hensley Morris for specific nomination instructions.
Nomination Form Preview

Part I: Graduate Coordinator and Department Information

- Select College or School
- Select Department
- Graduate Coordinator name, email
- Department campus address to which all certificates and letters for OTA winners will be sent for distribution to winners.
- Number of TAs in department
- Number of TAs nominated (may nominate up to 10%)

Part II: Nominee Information (must complete for each nominee)

- Name, email
- Home department, current job title
- Certification that nominee has fulfilled all requirements of TA Policy
  - Attended TA Orientation
  - Completed GRSC 7770 (or departmental equivalent)
- For international students required to submit TOEFL/IELTS for admission:
  - Demonstrated proficiency with the English language
- Nominee Teaching History
  - The nominee must have had significant teaching responsibilities for at least two terms at UGA. One of these terms must have occurred during or after the academic year immediately previous to the semester of nomination. The spring semester of the nomination deadline cannot count towards the two terms requirement. The current semester may be counted only if class evaluations have been completed. Please provide course information for up to four courses (minimum of two).
  - It is the nominee’s responsibility to supply the office of the Graduate Coordinator with the required information.

Part III: Departmental Endorsement

- Nominee endorsement:
  - I [Graduate Coordinator] acknowledge that my department nominates the graduate student(s) listed for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, and that the student(s) has fulfilled the requirements of the University’s TA policy and all nominating criteria for this award.

Questions?

For questions about the nomination criteria, eligibility, or concerning any submission issues, please contact the Assistant Director for TA Development and Recognition at gradteach@uga.edu.