Graduate Pedagogy Fellows
Sponsored by the Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning, Division of Graduate Studies, and Division of Student Success

About the Program

The Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (CITL) is pleased to announce that it is partnering with the Division of Graduate Studies and Division of Student Success to create a new Graduate Pedagogy Fellowship (GPF) certificate program aimed at developing pedagogical leaders and TA trainers for each of the approximately 40 graduate programs on campus within the next two years. The GPF program is a new interdisciplinary professional development program designed for graduate students to craft and deliver enhanced TA training for their peers in their departments through a “train the TA trainers” model. The first cohort will work with the CITL in Winter and Spring 2018 to prepare to teach TAs in their departments best practices in effective and equitable teaching.

All departments with graduate programs are invited to solicit applications from interested graduate students, and select and put forth one candidate to be their Graduate Pedagogy Fellow. From among this group, the CITL will select 20 participants for the first year of the program, which will begin Winter 2018. In the second year of the program, the CITL will prioritize applicants from the graduate departments that were not included in the first year of the program.

Why Pedagogy?

The GPF program aims to support the university-wide effort to focus instruction on student learning by providing enhanced TA training through professional development in active learning, collaborative learning, inclusive teaching, instructional technology, assessment, and course design. This university-wide effort is responding to a larger transformation in higher education pedagogy, aimed at addressing shifting demographics in postsecondary education, the advent of new technologies, and an explosion of scholarship on teaching and learning that has refocused diversity and equity concerns from the subject-matter of our courses to our teaching practices themselves.

Objectives

By participating in the certificate program, Graduate Pedagogy Fellows will …

• Gain extensive knowledge and professional development in 21st-century teaching including: active learning, inclusive teaching, universal design for learning, classroom climate, instructional technology, and learning assessment, among other topics.
• Apply this knowledge to discipline-specific pedagogical goals and objectives defined in collaboration with each graduate department / division.
• Participate in an interdisciplinary community of peers focused on pedagogy.
• Work collaboratively with their department to review existing department TA training program(s), identify areas for further development, and refine pedagogical goals and objectives.
• Develop a discipline-specific, research-informed TA training for their home department.
• Gain experience training graduate students in their specific disciplinary field utilizing research-informed 21st-century teaching practices.

Schedule and Activities

In Winter 2018, the first cohort of Graduate Pedagogy Fellows will take a ten-week course that meets every Wednesday from 3:00pm-5:00pm, in preparation to teach their peers the best practices in effective and equitable teaching. In Spring 2018, the Fellows will work with the CITL and their home departments to develop a discipline-specific TA training for their departments, with the objective of facilitating training for new TAs in their departments in Fall 2018.

Benefits for Departments

The GPF certificate program provides departments with the support and resources to enhance a culture of teaching and learning by training future pedagogical leaders. Although this program is voluntary for departments, the GPF certificate program aims to train exceptional candidates who will, upon completion, have a foundation in the current scholarship on teaching and learning, including universal design for learning, inclusive teaching, active learning, and assessment (among other topics). The GPF certificate program aims to work with each of the approximately 40 graduate departments on campus to enhance existing TA training programs and develop new ones with the aim that, after two years, all Teaching Assistants at UCSC will receive research-informed, in-depth training, whether that training is delivered in a for-credit course, a non-credit course, a daylong or two-day workshop, or through another model a department or division would like to consider.

Benefits to Graduate Students

The GPF program provides graduate students with the opportunity to receive advanced pedagogical training and professional development in teaching and learning at the higher education level. Participants will receive a $2,000 fellowship award, take part in a supportive interdisciplinary community focused on pedagogy, and receive pedagogical and program development training that will enhance their professional experience and contribute to their career goals.

Application Process

The CITL will send all graduate departments an official call for applications for the GPF certificate program. The CITL requests that graduate departments put forth a GPF candidate by November 17, 2017. A member of the CITL will contact your department to schedule a visit to discuss the GPF program, address any questions, work with you to select and put forth one Graduate Pedagogy Fellow candidate.
Application Requirements

The application for the Graduate Pedagogy Fellows program will entail:

☐ A cover letter (details to follow in the call for applications) that includes:
  ▪ Teaching experience relevant to this program
  ▪ Evidence of service to the university
  ▪ Evidence of interest in learning more about and developing a community around pedagogy

☐ An up-to-date CV (no more than 2 pages)
☐ A brief, 1-page letter of recommendation from a faculty member who knows the applicant in a teaching capacity, demonstrating the candidate’s interest in effective teaching and capacity as a peer leader. (This information can be based not only on strong teaching evaluations but also on participation in TA meetings, grading sessions, review sessions, etc.)

As mentors to other TAs within the Fellow’s department, the successful applicant will …

▪ Have experience teaching a range of courses within the department / field of study
▪ Indicate a clear interest in being a peer leader
▪ Express interest in learning research-informed teaching practices to enhance the academic success of UCSC students
▪ Be available in Winter and Spring 2018 for the full duration of the GPF program, working closely with the CITL and their home department to create or enhance a pedagogy program for TAs in the department
▪ Be available in Fall 2018 to facilitate TA training at the department level

Deadlines

November 1, 2017  Graduate students submit applications to their home department
November 17, 2017  All departments put forth one GPF candidate to CITL*

*Please submit application materials to citl@ucsc.edu by November 17 at 5:00pm.

Applicants and their departments will be notified of acceptance no later than December 1, 2017.