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

About the Program

The Graduate Pedagogy Fellows (GPF) program supports the development of peer leaders in 21st-century higher education pedagogy, with a particular focus on the Teaching Assistant (TA) role. Graduate students who participate in this interdisciplinary program develop their knowledge of effective and equitable teaching practices, craft an enhanced professional development opportunity for fellow TAs in their departments, and receive a certificate in pedagogical leadership—with the goal of facilitating TA pedagogical development in their departments the following academic year.

Through this program, CITL seeks to support graduate student professional development and undergraduate student success by cultivating peer leaders who are well-versed in effective and equity-minded teaching methods in every graduate program by 2020.

Why Professional Development in Pedagogy?

The GPF program aims to support the university-wide effort to focus instruction on student learning by providing professional development to Teaching Assistants in evidence-based teaching methods that promote effective and equitable learning environments. This university-wide effort is responding to a larger transformation in higher education pedagogy, which aims to ensure that our institutions support all students to thrive and has refocused inclusion and equity concerns from the subject-matter of our courses to our teaching practices themselves.

Program Objectives

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

- Gain extensive knowledge and professional development in research-informed, 21st-century teaching methods including: understanding how learning happens; developing equity-minded teaching strategies; promoting active and collaborative learning; assessing student learning; and encouraging effective communication among members of a teaching team.
- Apply this knowledge to discipline-specific pedagogical goals and objectives defined in collaboration with each graduate department and/or academic division.
- Participate in an interdisciplinary community of peers focused on pedagogy.
- Collaborate with their department to review existing department TA preparation programs, identify areas for further development, and refine pedagogical goals and objectives.
- Develop or refine a discipline-specific, research-informed TA preparation program for their home department.
- Gain experience as a peer leader, supporting fellow graduate students in their specific disciplinary field to utilize research-informed teaching practices.
Schedule and Activities in 2019-20

In Winter 2020, the selected Graduate Pedagogy Fellows will take a ten-week course that meets every Wednesday at 3:00-5:00pm, in preparation to teach their peers evidence-based teaching methods for creating effective and equitable learning environments. In Spring 2020, the Fellows will attend two workshops, meet at least twice with a CITL mentor, and collaborate with their home departments to develop a discipline-specific TA preparation program for their departments, with the objective of facilitating a pedagogical program for new TAs in their departments in 2020-21.

Benefits to Departments

The GPF program provides departments with support to enhance their culture of teaching and learning by developing pedagogical leaders. It aims to work with each of the graduate programs on campus to enhance existing department-specific TA training programs and develop new ones with the aim that all Teaching Assistants at UC Santa Cruz receive research-informed, in-depth pedagogical professional development, whether it 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. CITL works directly with departmental leadership to learn about departmental needs for TA pedagogical support, and to work within any existing structures and programs that support TA teaching development.

Benefits to Graduate Students

The GPF program provides graduate students with the opportunity to receive advanced pedagogical professional development with a focus on the current research in teaching and learning in higher education. Participants receive a $2,000 fellowship award for the two-quarter program, take part in a supportive interdisciplinary community focused on pedagogy, and develop pedagogical and program development expertise that can enhance their professional experience and contribute to their career goals. Fellows also gain the opportunity to support and mentor their departmental peers to develop their teaching practices and expertise, especially as they pertain to the Teaching Assistant role.

Application Process

In Fall 2019, CITL invites applications for the 2019-20 GPF program. CITL requests that graduate departments put forth one GPF candidate by November 26, 2019, and we recommend departments set an internal department application deadline of November 4, 2019. CITL will then select approximately 20 Fellows for the 2019-20 cohort, prioritizing applicants from departments that have not yet had a Fellow. All interested graduate students are encouraged to apply. Please see the Call for Applications for specific application information.
As a mentor to other TAs within the Fellow’s department, a 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 UC Santa Cruz students
- Be available in Winter and Spring 2020 for the full duration of the GPF program, working closely with CITL and their home department to create or enhance a pedagogy program for TAs in the department
- Be available in 2020-21 to facilitate TA training at the department or divisional level

**Deadlines**

- **November 4, 2019**  
  Graduate students submit applications to their home department
- **November 26, 2019**  
  Departments put forth one GPF candidate each by submitting the graduate student’s application materials to citl@ucsc.edu by 5:00pm
- **December 6, 2019**  
  Applicants and their departments notified of acceptance