

Reviewing Training of Teaching Assistants: Practices and Future Actions

KINESIOLOGY

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Workshop Objectives

- To understand current TAs' experiences and needs;
- To examine the departmental needs of TAs and scope of TA responsibilities;
- To review the current training process and procedure of TAs;
- To identify the resources to support TAs;
- To identify the gaps as future action items to improve the training quality



Data Discussed

- Scope of TA Responsibilities (i.e., Courses/labs taught or assisted by TAs)
- Logistic work involved in a TA position
- Assistance/Mentoring TAs Need: Data collected from current TAs' experiences



Scope of Departmental Needs & TA Responsibility

- **Scope of Department Needs:**

- *KIN100 Series*: 2-4 Physical activity courses (e.g., bowling; weight training).
- *Lab Assistance*: 8 courses need TAs for the labs every semester.
- Other times vary depending on the departmental needs.

- **Responsibilities/Learning Opportunities:**

- Independently teaching one course and all work involved;
- Independently teaching lab portion of one or two assigned courses;
- Assisting lab portion together with the course instructor;



Current TA's Experience

- TA position offered- December '22
- Graduate college orientation
- TA Orientation- January 19
 - All GA's discuss university policies, procedures, expectations, etc.
 - Small groups for each course
- Classes begin- January 23
- Mid-term TA meeting- March



Conclusions Reached

- Systematic training of TAs are needed (e.g., TA handbook; Orientation).
- Different forms of training could be adopted (e.g., formal and informal; in person, online, or hybrid).
- A collaborative effort should occur at different levels: department, faculty, TAs, and supportive service teams.



Items Chosen for Action

DATA TO BE COLLECTED

- Assessment of current TAs experiences
- Improve the procedure and process
- Collaborate with the department office
- Build a TA community to support each other



Follow-up Plans & Next Steps

- Communicate with department head
- Provide resources for TAs (info available LMS system, SharePoint, etc.)
- Gather feedback from current TAs
- Apply for assessment grant to support current efforts



Items that Need Action at Higher Levels than the Department

- FCTL workshop on this topic.
- Apply for FCTL curriculum development Grant



Questions?