



# Teaching Assistant Opportunities

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## TA-ing for fun and profit.

- A TA position can give you
  - crucial teaching experience if you want to be a professor.
  - crucial financial support when your advisor can't.
  - a wonderful sense of accomplishment when you succeed in helping your students understand the material.

## The Rules of the Road

- You may not take more than two classes when you TA. (No graduate student should ever take more than three classes.)
- You may not hold another job while TA-ing.
- Nobody TAs during their first year.
- You can TA at most 12 quarters.
- Your combined number of quarters as a Graduate Student Researcher and as a TA cannot exceed 18.

## The Beginning of Your TA Appointment

- Your appointment starts when the QUARTER begins not when instruction begins.
- You start preparing with your professor as soon as the quarter begins.
- There is a required orientation meeting after the quarter starts but *before* classes start.

## Test of Oral Proficiency

- If you are not a US citizen and English is not your native language, then you must demonstrate your language-readiness through the Test of Oral Proficiency (TOP).
- The TOP is free the first two times. Take it winter or spring of this year.
- It is offered near the end of each quarter. See the website:  
<http://www.oid.ucla.edu/units/top/>

## TOP Results

- If you score a 7.0, you can TA.
- If you score between 6.4 and 7.0, you must meet with a TOP counselor to form a Language Readiness Plan, a list of ESL classes you must take to prepare for a TA. You may not attempt the TOP again after exceeding a score of 6.4.
- If you score below 6.4 you must meet with a TOP counselor to discuss which ESL courses you should take before attempting TOP again.

## Statistics

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- 129 TA applications for 2005-2006.
- 67 students received assignments.
- 117 student-quarters of support.