



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

School of
Graduate Education

The School of Graduate Education (SGE) has updated the course materials and format of the graduate teaching assistant (GTA) onboarding requirements. Below are additional details about the new SGE Learning Communities that are **required to be taken by all GTAs** if they have not taken the Graduate Teaching and Learning Symposium in a prior semester.

Why the change?

SGE strives to provide the best learning experience for all students. To provide a more comprehensive training that includes time for reflection, peer and faculty mentoring, and answers to questions in real time it was necessary to update the format and content of the course.

What changed?

Previously, graduate teaching assistants were required to attend a full-day Teaching and Learning Symposium presented by SGE and the Ellbogen Teaching and Learning Center. The symposium served as an interactive workshop to teach GTAs what to expect in their role and how to navigate teaching in the classroom. **If a GTA has previously attended the Graduate Teaching and Learning Symposium, they do not need to register for a Learning Community.*

After reviewing feedback from GTA's, SGE and ECTL have planned to hold in-person Learning Communities that GTA's will attend through the semester. GTAs will be assigned to a cohort which will be taught by a faculty fellow. The same faculty fellow will teach a cohort through the entire semester. There are six Learning Community sessions held throughout the semester. GTAs are required to attend five of the six sessions to complete the Learning Community course. GTAs will be provided [with a book](#) and any other supplemental materials.

GTAs will be required to register for a Learning Community cohort in the first fall or spring of their hire as a GTA.

How can a student enroll in the course/cohort meetings? GTA's must go into WyoRecords and register for the School of Graduate Education Graduate Teaching

Assistant Learning Community course. The subject is "Graduate School" and course is number "0000". Registration for the course will be available by August 1 for the Fall semester and December 15 for the Spring semester.

Can a student switch to a different cohort once they are assigned? At this time, students will be required to attend the meetings of the cohort they are assigned.

What if the GTA misses a session? GTAs are allowed to miss one in-person session. GTAs must attend at least five of the six sessions to complete the Learning Community requirement. If attendance becomes an issue, students should work with their faculty fellow.

What if a student misses more than one session? If a GTA is not able to fulfill the required Learning Community during the assigned semester they will be at risk of losing their GTA. To maintain their funding eligibility the GTA must register for the Learning Community and attend at least five of the six sessions the following semester.

Why isn't there an online option? SGE and ECTL feel that the material is best taught and discussed in-person for GTAs to receive the best benefit from the course content. If a Zoom option is needed due to DSS accommodations, please contact Ashli Tomisich, ashli.tomisich@uwyo.edu.

Will there be sessions in the Fall and Spring? Yes, there will be LC sessions in both the fall and spring semesters. No sessions will be held over summer term. Registration for the course will be available by August 1 for the Fall semester and December 15 for the Spring semester.

How many students are in each cohort? 12-15 students will be included in each cohort.

How long is each LC session? Each session is 90 minutes.

How many cohorts will there be each semester? There will be approximately 10 cohorts each semester.

What book will be provided for the course? The book is "The Successful TA" by Kathy Nomme and Carol Pollock.

What if a student becomes a GTA after the semester starts? If a student is hired as a GTA mid-semester, they must take the Learning Community course the following semester to retain their assistantship.