



Date: 12/17/2013

Dear Program Directors and Program Assistants-

As has been presented and discussed at numerous meetings over the past year, the decision has been made to require teacher training for newly hired TAs. This issue has also recently been raised by Derek Bok, Harvard's former president, as one of the critical areas where we are failing graduate students, especially doctoral candidates (<http://chronicle.com/article/We-Must-Prepare-PhD-Students/142893/>).

As the start of a process to better prepare TAs, newly minted ones as well as those switching from Graduate Instructional Assistants (9550) to either Graduate Teaching Assistants (9184) or Associates (9183) will be required to take part in the teacher-training program that is being offered by the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence (ATLE; <http://www.usf.edu/atle/>). Students with previous TA experience will not be included in this mandatory training, although they are certainly encouraged to take part in the range of courses and workshops offered by ATLE.

The nature of the specific requirements differs somewhat depending on the TA's job code:

- New Graduate Instructional Assistants (9550) **must attend** a one-day training session to be held on Jan. 3, 2014 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm in CPR 122.
- New Graduate Teaching Assistants (9184) or Associates (9183) **must attend** the one-day training session to be held on Jan. 3, 2014 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm in CPR 122 and must either complete the on-line "Teaching Essentials sequence (housed in Canvas; Teaching Assistants and Associates will be added automatically) or attend an eight-week teacher training course (<http://www.usf.edu/atle/events/pct-course.aspx>) offered by Dr. Kevin Yee, ATLE's director.

As of last Friday, there were no records in GEMS that pointed to any new TAs, but undoubtedly there are some. So, given that reality and although the TAs will be receiving word of this directly from us, we would appreciate you contacting the students to let them know about this new requirement. To register for the one-day course, TAs should go to the following: <http://www.cte.usf.edu/survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=l2K39m45&Preview=true>

Those students unable to attend the mandatory session will be required to enroll in the eight-week course mentioned above.

If your program already offers comprehensive TA training, please let us know some of the details of the program, especially the range of competencies covered. Should you have any questions about this requirement, please contact Dr. Peter Harries, Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Studies ([harries@usf.edu](mailto:harries@usf.edu)).

Thank you in advance for letting your new TAs know about this.

Sincerely, Peter Harries