

GWS Graduate Teaching Expectations, Opportunities, and Selection Guidelines

(Updated July 2025)

Teaching Expectations:

To give you the best possible preparation to teach, and to enhance your credentials when you are on the job market, you must meet the following expectations:

- All students must serve as a teaching assistant (TA) for a minimum of 2 semesters in GWS.
- You will not serve as a teaching assistant during the first semester of your first year in the program. You will instead be supported by other means including but not limited to University and CGRS Fellowships as well as GWS funded project assistant (PA), teaching assistant (TA), and/or research assistant (RA) positions.

Teaching Opportunities:

- Students may have the opportunity to serve as a summer TA for an online GWS course. Two TA positions are generally available every summer.
- Students may have the opportunity to serve as a lecturer for a GWS course. Two lecturer opportunities are generally available during the academic year. One lecturer opportunity is generally available every summer.

Teaching Selection Guidelines:

Teaching assignments will be made by the Academic Program in consultation with the the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program Manager in the following order of priority:

- Academic-Year TA:
 1. GWS PhD students, in first five years of program, who have no internal/external fellowship/PA/RA funding for relevant semester(s)
 2. GWS PhD students, in sixth year and beyond in program, with no internal/external fellowship/PA/RA funding for relevant semester(s)
- Summer TA:
 1. GWS PhD students, in first five years of program, who have no PA/RA/fellowship or other funding for relevant summer
 2. GWS PhD students, in first five years of program, who have not previously been employed as a summer TA
 3. GWS PhD students, in sixth year and beyond in program, with no summer PA/RA/fellowship or other funding for relevant summer
 4. GWS PhD students, in sixth year and beyond in program, who have not previously been employed as a summer TA
- Lecturer - *Existing* Courses:

- Academic-Year Lecturer:
 - GWS PhD students, with an MA from our department or another institution, who have:
 1. Served as a GWS teaching assistant for at least two semesters
 2. Teaching/TA experience on similar content
 3. Proof of teaching effectiveness in our department or at prior institutions (as reflected in prior teaching/TA evaluations and/or observations)

- Summer Lecturer:
 - GWS PhD students, with an MA from our department or another institution, who have:
 1. Served as a GWS teaching assistant for at least two semesters
 2. Teaching/TA experience on similar content
 3. Proof of teaching effectiveness in our department or at prior institutions (as reflected in prior teaching/TA evaluations and/or observations)
 4. Not been previously employed as a summer lecturer

- Lecturer - **New Courses**:
 - Academic-Year Lecturer:
 - GWS PhD students, who are ABD, per UW-Madison guidelines, and who have:
 1. Served as a GWS TA for at least two semesters
 2. Teaching/TA experience on similar content
 3. Proof of teaching effectiveness in our department or at prior institutions (as reflected in prior teaching/teaching assistant evaluations and/or observations)

 - Summer Lecturer:
 - GWS PhD students, who are ABD, per UW-Madison guidelines, and who have:
 1. Served as a GWS TA for at least two semesters
 2. Teaching/TA experience on similar content
 3. Proof of teaching effectiveness in our department or at prior institutions (as reflected in prior teaching/TA evaluations and/or observations)
 4. Not been previously employed as a summer lecturer