

Help me! I Don't Know How to Be a TA!

Sharon Bullock, Michelle Pass, and Judy Moore

University of North Carolina – Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte NC 28223 USA
(sbulloc8@uncc.edu)

Graduate teaching assistants come to us with varying levels of knowledge, experience, and confidence. At UNC-Charlotte we address these issues by offering TAs an annual training orientation, a comprehensive TA manual, and ongoing support. This workshop will present a variety of proven methods for transforming some of the most apprehensive beginning TAs into skillful and professional educators. Content will include components of our training orientation: general information all TAs at UNCC need to know, duties and responsibilities of teaching assistants, instructional and organizational best practices in the teaching lab, policies, and strategies for dealing with complex issues such as FERPA, students with disabilities, safety considerations, behavioral problems, and harassment. We will present excerpts from the UNCC TA manual. Additionally we will share logistics for routine support and activity-specific guidance of TAs via weekly planning meetings. Thorny problems such as dealing with individual TA issues will be addressed as well. The mini-workshop will include discussion, group activities, and role-playing.

Mission, Review Process & Disclaimer

The Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) was founded in 1979 to promote information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with teaching biology in a laboratory setting. The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises. For more information about ABLE, please visit <http://www.ableweb.org>.

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