

**Objectives for NSCI 6020 Teaching Assistants (TAs)**

- 1. Develop and practice professionalism and inclusion.** Please review and practice the items delineated in the Professionalism Expectations for TAs document.
  
- 2. Develop teaching skills and pedagogical approaches.** Be able to clearly and concisely explain complex topics. Over the course of the semester, it is expected that your teaching skills will improve. The Course Director will provide specific feedback throughout the semester to help TAs achieve this goal.
  - a. Best practices in teaching include:
    - i. Identifying patterns and themes to help students understand material.
    - ii. Using a variety of techniques to explain concepts (e.g., verbal descriptions, writing or drawing out processes/pathways, identifying structures on images and specimens, etc.).
    - iii. Listening to student questions and responding to each component of the question.
    - iv. Following up with students to make sure that your response answered their question.
    - v. Encouraging engagement among students by asking them questions and giving them time to think and discuss.
    - vi. Be flexible, open, and curious.
  - b. [The Teaching Academy](#) has helpful resources in developing teaching skills.
    - i. The Teaching Academy offers a one-day [Essentials of Teaching and Assessment Course](#) every September. Students and trainees are welcome to register for this free event.
  - c. The [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#) also has helpful resources and free events focused on pedagogy and teaching skills.
    - i. CTL offers a [Graduate Teaching Program](#) for graduate students that are particularly interested in teaching.
  
- 3. Develop at least one goal that you would like to achieve during this teaching experience and work toward that goal with the Course Director.** Goals may be content-specific or related to teaching and pedagogy.