

NGP Teaching Guidelines

Teaching Assignment Process

NGP Mission: Teaching

The goal of the Neuroscience Graduate Program is to develop effective stewards of neuroscience. An important component of stewardship is to teach others about your discipline. Thus, NGP training includes a two-year teaching requirement. Students fulfill this requirement by being a teaching assistant (TA) in one course during his/her second year and one course in the third year of study. (Students do not teach in the first year, because they are taking courses to learn the neuroscience material they will be teaching). Students who are funded on GTAs beyond their second year are required to TA one course for every year of GTA funding. **Regardless of a student's funding source, all NGP students are required to teach during their second and third years in the program.**

NGP Objectives: Teaching

- To create effective teachers and communicators of neuroscience.
- To foster independence in thinking, laboratory work, teaching, and communicating.
- Develop skills in scientific thinking, teaching, communication, and writing.
- To provide teaching assistants to the College of Medicine, College of Arts & Sciences, and Graduate College courses in exchange for Graduate Teaching Assistantship funds.

NGP Procedure: Teaching Assignments

Students must serve as a teaching assistant in one of the following neuroscience-related courses in the second year: NSCI 110, NSCI 225, NSCI 301, or GRMD 357. Students in the third year can teach in these courses as well as other related courses including NSCI 201, BIOL 261 or 262, GRMD 354 and PSYC 221 or 222 (or any approved by the steering committee and home department).

Process

1. Some time in late spring or early summer, the # of potential TAs is ascertained. This would include all 2nd and 3rd year students and any 4th year or beyond students who have been supported by GTA funds beyond the second year.
2. An email is sent to all students asking them to declare which courses they would like to teach. The email includes a note about the timing of the courses and the names of the course directors. Hopefully, the choices work out and everyone gets the course they wanted. If not, a decision is made based on best fit.

Revised September 27, 2013

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3. When all assignments have been made an email is sent to the NGP Director and Coordinator indicating the assignments. In addition, an email is sent to each Course Director letting them know who their TAs will be for the upcoming year. That email is copied to the students TAing in the course and to the students' advisors, if they already have joined a lab.
4. About 6-8 weeks before the assignment begins, a reminder note is sent to the student, copied to the course director and student's advisor (all students should have identified their thesis lab by then), reminding them of the assignment.

Revised September 27, 2013

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