
Graduate Teaching Assistant

IntegSci100 - Exploring Biology and IntegSci150 Exploring Research
UW-Madison Summer Collegiate Experience

Overview:

The Graduate Teaching Assistant is a core member of the instructional team for Exploring Biology/Exploring Research, which is offered as part of the Summer Collegiate Experience for incoming first-year students (<https://cae.ls.wisc.edu/summer-collegiate-experience/>). Exploring Biology is a first-year seminar designed to introduce students to a wide variety of ideas, concepts, and most importantly ways of thinking in biology as well as give students the resources to be successful at UW-Madison and in their future career. Exploring Research will offer students an overview of the different ways that research is conceived and conducted. The Teaching Assistant will support the instructor and course director in facilitating class activities and discussions, working with students one-on-one and in small groups, and grading and providing feedback to students. **The integrated course runs for 6 weeks, from June 23-August 1, 2025.** Dates of the TA appointment are June 16, 2025 – August 3, 2025 to allow for preparation and course wrap up.

Course overview: Explore exciting bioscience research and opportunities at UW-Madison in this unique course that combines Exploring Biology and Exploring Research. Students will learn the core concepts in biology, explore biology careers and opportunities, learn to read scientific literature, and build skills in thinking like a scientist. The course will be focused on biology in Wisconsin, including learning about Wisconsin biological systems, science affecting residents in Wisconsin, and research being done at UW-Madison.

Course format: Class meets every day in person Monday through Friday for 1.5 hours from 1:30-3:00pm in Van Vleck B107. The course is taught using interactive and collaborative teaching approaches with students seated in groups. This collaborative format gives students the opportunity to form connections with classmates, while the focus on active learning uses research-based best practices to enhance student learning. The class will also include online assignments that students will complete individually outside of class. This will include tasks that prepare them for activities in class, as well as assignments that will reinforce and extend what was learned in class.

Responsibilities:

The course Teaching Assistant (TA) is responsible for:

- helping create an interactive and productive class environment by:
 - attending all class sessions
 - aiding in the facilitation of activities by guiding groups and providing positive feedback
 - being receptive to student questions
- supporting student learning outside of class by:
 - holding regular office hours (twice per week for 1 hour before class)
 - working with students one-on-one and in small groups outside of class by appointment, including possibly attending meals with students
 - responding to student emails or posts about the course online
 - attending SCE Study Table up to two nights per week (time TBD but likely Mo-Th 6-8 or 7-9pm)

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- supporting the instructor and course director in development and implementation of the course by:
 - assisting in the development of course materials and activities as needed
 - attending staff meetings
 - grading and providing feedback to students
 - summarizing student responses from various course assignments and surveys to the instructor

Additional TA opportunities could include some direct instruction and activity implementation and/or development which is in line with the TA's professional development goals.

Required qualifications:

- Current UW-Madison graduate student. Students who will graduate in May 2025 are not eligible UNLESS they will be continuing in a graduate program (at UW-Madison or elsewhere) in Fall 2025.
- At least 1 semester of TA or teaching experience
- BS/BA in Biology or related field
- Ability to hold a 64.5% Teaching Assistant appointment during the 7 weeks of the course (check with your HR representative)

Preferred qualifications:

- TA or teaching experience with first-year students
- Experience teaching in an active learning classroom or familiar with active learning approaches
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.

Compensation: TBD, will be similar to 2024 total compensation \$5,378.64; based on appointment percentage of 64.5% for 7 weeks

To apply: Please send CV and cover letter describing interest in the position and any applicable teaching experience to Owen Sullivan, omsullivan@wisc.edu. **Review of applications will begin on March 31st, 2025 and continue until position is filled. For full consideration, please apply by March 30th.**