



Suggested Best Practices

Preparing graduate students to teach their own courses

- Most graduate student course instructors will have at least two semesters' experience leading discussions, labs, or other sections in their own field of study. Undergraduate TA experience will not count toward this minimum expectation.
- All graduate students will complete some kind of teacher training program, either in their own department or at the Sheridan Center, prior to teaching their own courses. Such training should be required of any graduate student who has no prior experience leading sections. This includes graduate students who have served as graders but who have not led their own course sections.
- Departments should have a curriculum review committee or some other process that vets all graduate student course syllabi for their department.
- Departments should evaluate their graduate students' teaching effectiveness through classroom visits. Sheridan Center professional staff are available for consultation.
- Department Chairs should establish a process to review teaching evaluations of graduate student course instructors every semester and to address any problems that emerge in the review.
- When proposing that a graduate student teach a course, the department Chair should offer an account of the student's teaching qualifications using the Comment Box of the relevant online course proposal. In the unusual event that a department proposes a graduate student instructor for a course normally taught by a regular Brown faculty member, the Chair should explain the reason for this in the Comment Box.
- Graduate students are normally not allowed to teach courses capped at more than 25 students or courses with other graduate student teaching assistants.