THE ROLE OF A PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATE:
A QUICK GUIDE BY PIE
TEACHING AT FSU ASSISTANTS

WHAT IS A TA?

Graduate students that become teaching assistants (TAs) support the teaching mission of the university. Almost all departments offer teaching assistantships to assist with the college or departmental teaching effort. Duties can range from serving as a grader to teaching a course. Such appointments depend on experience and training, and range in time commitment from ten to twenty hours per week. Stipends vary from discipline to discipline, but each discipline attempts to be competitive in its area. Assistants receive nine hours of tuition waivers each term from their respective department in addition to the stipend.

-From the PIE website

BEING A TA IS A GREAT WAY TO CULTIVATE:

Communication Skills
- Written, verbal, etc.

Leadership Skills
- Public speaking/teaching
- Organization/management

Technology Skills
- Practice with teaching tech

Mastery of Your Field
- Content mastery for teaching purposes/research
WHAT IS PIE?

The Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), a unit of The Graduate School, strives to enrich the learning experience for undergraduate students at FSU by supporting the teaching efforts of graduate student teaching assistants through its various services. PIE offers professional development programs that create opportunities to foster a sense of collaboration and community among all graduate student teaching assistants, and any graduate student interested in learning best practices in teaching and learning while at FSU.

WHAT DOES PIE DO?

PIE supports graduate student teaching by developing and organizing:
- Mandatory training for new TAs
- Professional development workshops on various topics pertaining to teaching (we serve free pie and coffee at face-to-face events!)
- Office hours for TAs and graduate students interested in teaching
- Awards for outstanding TAs
- Other guides, job aids, and online resources for supporting teaching

WHO ARE THE PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATES?

A PIE Teaching Associate is an experienced graduate student teaching assistant (TA) nominated by his/her academic department and trained by the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE). They serve as mentors for other TAs in the department and assist PIE with university workshops, conferences, teaching awards, and other events. Successful candidates will demonstrate an interest in pedagogy and teaching related issues, a commitment to helping new graduate students, and a commitment to service and scholarly activities. PIE also pays close attention to diversity of backgrounds and disciplines when recruiting the PIE Associate team.
CANDIDATES MUST:
- Be enrolled as a graduate student
- Have a strong interest in teaching
- Be in good academic standing and progress toward degree
- Have a TA appointment for the academic year
- Have availability to attend mandatory monthly meetings, PIE workshops, etc.
- Have prior graduate student teaching assistant (TA) experience at FSU (at least two semesters)
- Show commitment for the academic year
- Have availability to work approximately 5 hours/week during the semester, plus training & Fall PIE Teaching Conference/TA Orientation (see specific dates above & below)
- Obtain written department support (letter of recommendation) and approval

OTHER DETERMINING FACTORS:
- Department recommendation/support for position
- Teaching Assistant (TA) Experience/and student evaluations
- Number of TAs in their department
- Commitment to the program
- Career goals
- Diversity (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disciplinary distribution)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATE?

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PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATE TASKS

- Attend a mandatory PIE Associate training in the fall (dates TBD)
- Attend PIE Associate meetings as scheduled (at least one meeting per month during each semester)
- Conduct a department needs assessment
- Develop a departmental proposal to support departmental TA training based on needs assessment & set up meeting with department representative & PIE Director to discuss
- Facilitate/set up a departmental workshop
- Serve on two PIE Teaching Associate Committees during the academic year (specifics to be discussed during August PIE Teaching Associate training)
- Attend and/or assist with each PIE Coffee Hour & Teaching Workshop
- Assist with PIE Teaching Conference/TA Orientations (specific dates and times TBD)
- Serve on the PIE Teaching Training Recognition Committee (which means current PIE Associates may not themselves submit a report while they hold the PIE Associate position)
- Serve on the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Committee (which means current PIE Associates may not themselves apply for -- but could be nominated for the OTAA while currently serving as a PIE Associate)
- Complete a mid-year report & set up meeting with the PIE Director to discuss
- Complete a final report
- Other assignments as required
“I really enjoy the feeling of community that we experience as PIE associates. We have the opportunity to bond, and support each other. We get to interact and learn from TAs from other departments with similar experiences and interests, and so it has expanded my appreciation for teaching and being a graduate student at FSU. I feel supported by the associates, the PIE director and staff; they care about my interests, support my professional growth, and care that my experience in PIE is whole and fruitful.”

“Serving as a PIE associate is a great way to network with other graduate assistants on campus, as well as practice the skills that are so important for future faculty members and instructors to possess.”
- TehQuin Forbes, PIE Associate

For more information about previous PIE Teaching Associates and the position, you may click here.
Important Events/Dates

PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATE APPLICATION

- The online application opens March 22, 2021 and consists of a digital form component and a video component.
- The PIE Associate application closes 11:59 PM, April 30, 2021. All components of the application must be submitted by this date/time.

PIE SUMMER KICKOFF EVENT

- The PIE Summer Kickoff Event will consist of an informational session on the PIE Associate position, Q&A, and networking/social activities with other graduate students.
- The event will be hosted via Zoom on April 9, 2021, 3:00-4:30 PM.

PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATE TRAINING DATES

- PIE Teaching Associate position appointments begin August 9, 2021
- PIE Associates must attend a mandatory training period in August, specific dates/times TBD.
- PLEASE NOTE...The PIE Associate assistantship is a combination of a job and a professional development for teaching opportunity. You will therefore complete a series of assignments to cultivate your own teaching throughout the 2-semester committment.

For more information, visit our website: PIE.FSU.EDU