

New GTA Orientation | Spring 2022

Congratulations on your new position as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) at the University of Kansas (KU)! GTAs play an integral role at KU. All new GTAs must complete a mandatory New GTA Orientation offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) or an approved alternative¹ New GTA Orientation offered by their hiring department. Please find more details about the components associated with CTE's New GTA Orientation below.

Jan. 3 to Jan. 17. Complete Policy Tutorial in [Canvas²](#) (time commitment ~ 2 hours)

The goal of the Policy Tutorial is to introduce and familiarize you with KU policies and procedures as they relate to your duties as a GTA. The Policy Tutorial covers four broad topics: Privacy and Disability, Consenting Relationships and Sexual Harassment, Professional Expectations, and Academic Integrity.

Jan. 3 to Jan. 11. Complete Conference Essential Modules in [Canvas²](#) (time commitment ~ 2 hours)

The goal of the Essential Modules (Evaluating Student Learning, Creating an Inclusive and Engaging Climate for ALL Your Students) is to provide you with an overview of best practices of teaching. This content will prepare you for the conference discussion session, *Applying Principals of Effective and Equitable Teaching* on Tuesday, Jan 11.

Conference Sessions | Tuesday, January 11th

Tuesday, Jan 11 (8:30-10:00 a.m.). Attend Welcome Session via Zoom (find Zoom details in [Canvas²](#); 1.5 hours)

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and Graduate Studies will welcome you to your new position and discuss resources that are available to you in your position as a GTA, what it means to be a GTA, and how redefining teaching can supercharge learning. We will be sure to reserve time to answer your questions.

Tuesday, Jan. 11 (1-2:30 p.m.). Attend discussion session via Zoom (Zoom details sent via KU email; 1.5 hours)

The goal of this session, *Applying Principals of Effective and Equitable Teaching*, is to provide you an opportunity to talk with an experienced faculty member (and your peers) about the Conference Essential Modules content and how you can apply the content in your own teaching.

Jan. 11 to Jan. 24. Complete Conference Breakout Modules in [Canvas²](#) (time commitment ~ 3 hours)

The goal of the Breakout Modules is to provide you with an overview of best practices of teaching based on your specific role. GTAs are required to complete three breakout modules. You can choose from several topics for the modules, including Guiding Discussions, Lecturing, Teaching in a Science Lab, Problem Solving in the Technical Classroom, Succeeding in the First Few Weeks, Handling Difficult Conversations, Teaching in the U.S., and Grading Student Writing.

Jan. 24. Register to attend a [Follow-up Session²](#)

Feb. 7 to Feb. 25. Attend a Follow-up Session via Zoom (Zoom details will be sent after you register; 1 hour)

The goal of the Follow-up Session is to provide you with an opportunity to discuss challenges you are facing and to develop a plan to make any adjustments you believe are needed to improve your students' learning.

If you have any questions, e-mail us at kcolyott@ku.edu or cte@ku.edu, or visit our website at cte.ku.edu.

1. If you are teaching in a department that has an approved alternative GTA orientation, you only need to complete the CTE-hosted New GTA Policy Tutorial component. You can check to see if your department has an alternative program at cte.ku.edu/gta-resources.
2. You can access the orientation component by clicking the associated link after availability date. For Canvas courses you can also access by logging into Canvas at canvas.ku.edu If you are having trouble accessing a link after the availability date, email Kaila Colyott at kcolyott@ku.edu.