

WORKING WITH GTAS

February 2022

Film and Mass Media



FILM MFA GTAS

The Film MFA has 6 GTA positions

Most applicants do not have a Journalism or Radio-TV background but some do.

I have formally requested that one of the Mass Comm GTAs be assigned to assist our JOU faculty from now on (stay tuned).

Whereas the Mass Comm and PhD GTAs all teach the same thing, our GTAs are expected to teach and assist a wide variety of classes.

KEEP THIS IN MIND ABOUT FILM MFA STUDENTS:

THEY ARE WRITING/PRODUCING/DIRECTING A FEATURE-LENGTH FILM. THIS IS A MONUMENTAL TASK THAT INVOLVES CREW, CAST, INSURANCE, MULTIPLE LEGAL AGREEMENTS, ETC. IT'S A HIGHLY STRESSFUL PROCESS.

THEY ARE RAISING BETWEEN \$5000 AND \$25000 TO PAY FOR THEIR FILM IN ADDITION TO PAYING THEIR TUITION

THEY OFTEN DO NOT COME FROM A MEDIA BACKGROUND INVOLVING INTENSE DAILY DEADLINES. THEY'RE "ARTISTS."

THE PROCESS IS COMPLEX

We pick the ones we feel are best suited to the task

They do 3 levels of training without pay (GTA, WebCourses, HR)

They work 20 hours a week, we can divide up any way we choose

If they are teaching a class, we must put 10 hours toward that class

Adlin puts the GTAs on the schedule

Sarina and Debbie make the contracts, which must match their schedule

GTAS VS ADJUNCTS

(GTAS ARE MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE)

GTAS

\$5,000 for one semester + \$2,593.44
for tuition + paid insurance coverage

In-state Fall/Spring Contract

MS GTA = \$10,000 + \$3,326.85 =
\$13,326.85

BACKGROUND CHECK

Qualifies in the teaching system with a
relevant degree or 18 hours of relevant
courses

ADJUNCTS

\$2,490 per course

No tuition

No insurance

BACKGROUND CHECK

Qualifies in the teaching system with a
relevant degree or 10+ years of
experience

GRADING AND TEACHING

Graders and Assistants can only grade and assist

Associates can interact with students and teach a class

There is no difference in pay between a grader, assistant, or associate

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Do not assume they know what you need. Explain exactly what you need as explicitly as you can.

Do not assume they know anything about the material in your class. They won't have time to actually "take the class" with the students, so provide them with answers if you can. Provide shortcuts.

Do not assume they absorb what you tell them in your office. Ask them to follow-up with an email after each meeting that lists the tasks you gave them.

MORE TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Meet

Meet with your GTA EVERY WEEK, even if it's just a 5-10 minute quick meetup. GTAs complain that they don't get any feedback on the work they are doing. Gen Z needs affirmation!

Provide

When grading exams or papers, provide rubrics and share a few "examples" with each other to make sure you're on the same page with how you are grading papers or essays.

Encourage

Encourage their involvement by offering opportunities to "change-up quiz questions" or "freshen up a module" if they seem enthusiastic.



WHAT ELSE CAN THEY DO FOR ME?

THINGS NOT WORKING OUT?

- 1). Discuss what's not working with your GTA and provide suggestions on how they can do things better. Make expectations clear.
- 2). Follow-up. Give them one more chance
- 3). After two chances: Notify me. I will set up an appointment to speak with them.

BEST GTA EVER?

NOMINATE THEM FOR THE OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHING
ASSISTANT AWARD!

GTA EVALUATIONS

These should be done with the GTA present at a meeting with you.

The evals are completed online within myUCF

Unfortunately, if your class was not listed on the GTA's contract, you will not be notified of their evaluations. It may be likely they were listed instead under the Asst. Dir., who can go in and complete the evaluations for you.

I'd love a volunteer to come up with our own evaluation survey!

WHAT WE'D LIKE TO SEE FROM FACULTY WHO GET A GTA:

ATTENDANCE AT OUR FILM CRITIQUES AT THE END OF THE TERM
(EVEN IF YOU CAN ONLY COME FOR A FEW STUDENTS, FALL OR
SPRING)

PARTICIPATION ON MFA THESIS COMMITTEES (WE CAN WALK YOU
THROUGH IT)

ADVOCACY FOR OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM (BECAUSE WITHOUT IT...
NO GTAS!)

WHAT IS AN UNDERGRAD TA?



It's an undergraduate who excels at a particular skill and is enthusiastic about helping you.



They have to have a high GPA



They have to be willing to enroll in a 3-credit Webcourse (they pay for it)