1 Employment opportunities

Teaching Assistants lead a recitation-style class. They often field student questions and present at the board. Quiz and exam grading may be required. An office hour in addition to the recitation may be required. TA responsibilities vary at the discretion of the course’s lead instructor for that semester. Potential TAs are expected to have earned an A or an A- in a course similar to the one to which they are assigned. TAs are paid $450 for the semester.

Workshop Leaders lead a workshop. The students in the workshop work in small groups on questions provided by the course’s lead instructor. Workshop Leaders facilitate this process. Since effective workshop leadership requires specific training, workshop leaders take CAS 352 or CAS 355 during the same semester they are leading workshops. Workshop Leaders are paid $450 for the semester. Potential TAs are expected to have earned an A or an A- in a course similar to the one to which they are assigned.

Webwork TAs respond to students who click the “Ask the Webwork TA” button at the bottom of a webwork question. Webwork TAs are expected to keep an eye on their email inboxes and to respond in a timely fashion. They may also be required to maintain an office hour and to assist with exam grading. Webwork TAs are paid $400 for the semester. Potential TAs are expected to have earned an A or an A- in a course similar to the one to which they are assigned.

Graders grade homework for some of the 200-level courses and for MTH 150. The grading is often shared between several graders. This makes the grader’s work schedule flexible, but it can sometimes be very busy. Graders may be required to assist with exam grading and/or
hold an office hour. Potential graders are expected to have themselves earned an A in the course to which they are assigned. Graders are paid $600 for the semester.

2 Support from CETL

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning offers support through classes to students working as TAs or Workshop Leaders.

CAS 310 is a new 2-credit course specifically designed for TAs, as opposed to workshop leaders. This course will provide undergraduate teaching assistants with learning theory and practical techniques for leading recitations. The goal is to empower them with both the knowledge and skills to confidently lead a recitation using best practice teaching methods. *Students who have already completed CAS 352 or 355 are not eligible for this course.

CAS 352 (also 2 credits) is the first workshop leadership course. Each math course using the workshop model has one CAS 352 course, and all workshop leaders are required to take the course. This course surveys group dynamics, learning theory and pedagogy. The larger goals for this course are to develop leadership skills, to foster ongoing communication among faculty members and workshop leaders, and to provide an environment for focused review of workshop modules.

CAS 355 is a 1-credit course for workshop leaders who have already taken CAS 352.

3 Freshmen applicants

With very few exceptions, first semester sophomores will be assigned to a workshop-leadership position. In this way, first semester sophomores are offered the maximum possible assistance in their new math-educator roles. Workshop leaders in CAS 352 benefit from pedagogy instruction, contact with math faculty, and the support and ideas of their peers.

Sometimes scheduling CAS 352 can be problematic, and in these cases first semester sophomores may be offered a position as a TA.