

# Level 1 TA Orientation

*Welcome to UC Merced! As a member of our teaching community, you have an essential role and responsibility for the success of our students. In Teaching Assistant (TA) Orientation, Teaching Commons will help you navigate your job as an educator with tips, resources, and feedback. You will reflect on and discuss strategies for inclusive and engaging teaching. You may also practice teaching and outline a plan for how to approach your first day in the class.*

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## Equity-Minded Teaching and Active Learning

This session explores students' sense of belonging and value in the classroom, how to cultivate an inclusive learning environment, and how to structure class time to maximize engagement while establishing a student-centered practice of instruction.

*This opening session is every student's introduction to teaching at UC Merced.*



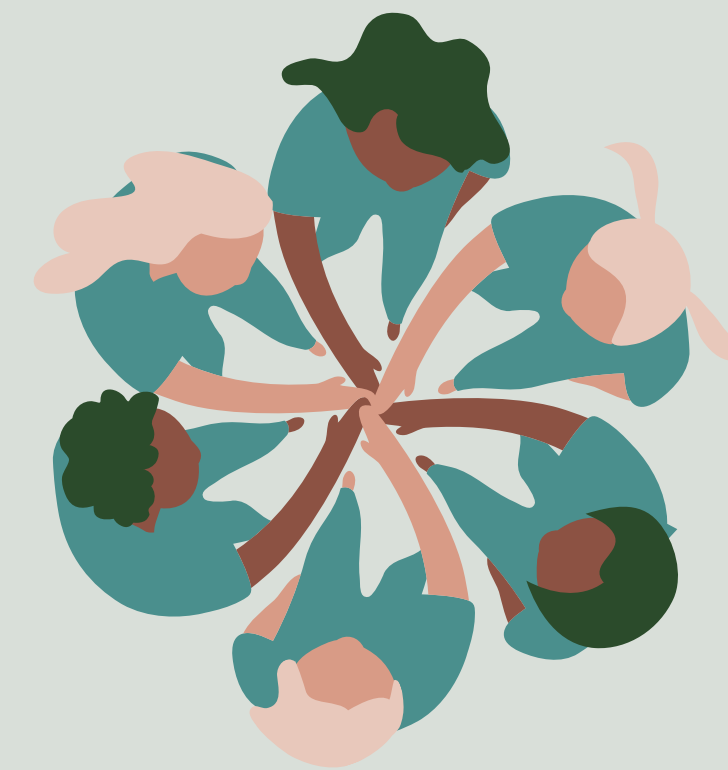
## Feedback, Rubrics, and Grading

This session dives into an introduction to providing effective feedback for students, how to develop and use a rubric, and tips for grading. Participants will practice grading with and without a rubric and receive feedback on their experience grading.



## The First Day of Class and Building Community

Students develop an impression of their instructor and class within a few seconds of the first day. This session covers what to consider doing on the first day of class to help build a foundation of learning for a successful semester of teaching.



## Policies and FERPA

This session goes over all the policies and procedures required for teaching students including emergency preparedness, student privacy and protection, and how to report student misconduct.



## Expectations of Teaching Assistants

What does it mean to be a good TA? This session provides perspectives from faculty, students, and fellow TAs about expectations and tips for success from the UC Merced teaching and learning community.



## Communication and Professionalism

This session discusses how to establish healthy communication routines, like office hours and emails, with students, the importance of setting boundaries, and how to establish instructor presence in the classroom.



## Introduction to Teaching Technologies

This session explores the basic use of Canvas, Zoom, and other UC Merced-supported technology for teaching and learning and for maintaining a teaching assistant position.



## Practice Teaching in a Discipline

This 2-day workshop offers an opportunity to develop a discipline-specific lesson plan, conduct the lesson, and receive feedback from peers, faculty, and pedagogical coaches before your first day.

