CAS Dean’s Office Statement on Graduate Student Use

The College of Arts and Sciences views the use of graduate teaching assistants, research assistants, and graduate assistants as integral to the mission of the college to educate and train students in both content and pedagogy.

The College strives to employ only graduate students who meet SACS recommendations. Graduate teaching assistants who are listed as the instructor of record for undergraduate courses they teach must hold a bachelor's degree and have successfully completed at least 18 graduate semester hour credits in the teaching discipline. In certain cases, graduate students with fewer than 18 hours of graduate credit in the teaching discipline may act as instructors of record if the course constitutes part of a teaching training program (e.g., a practicum or internship) for which they receive intensive supervision. Graduate teaching assistants may not teach graduate courses unless they hold an earned doctorate/terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline. In addition, graduate teaching assistants must be under the direct supervision of a faculty member experienced in the teaching discipline, receive regular in-service training, and be evaluated on a regular basis.

College of Arts and Sciences departments address supervision in various ways. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of English, both of which teach large numbers of freshman level, General Studies sections operate with a centralized system of supervision. In each of these departments, a faculty member is assigned to supervise numerous graduate teaching assistants and their sections. In other departments, such as Biology, graduate teaching assistants teach laboratory sections and are supervised by the instructor of the lecture section.

Specifics concerning graduate student teaching qualifications and the sections taught may be found in the SACS Faculty Roster.