

TA Training Seminar: Learning Objectives

(04 October 2005)

By the end of the quarter, I expect the students participating in the seminar...

To Know:

- how to approach unforeseen situations, including
 - dealing with difficult students and disruptive behavior
 - being “put on the spot” by a challenging student question
- how to effectively solicit student feedback and how to interpret it
- how to provide effective feedback to students
- how to answer questions
 - when you know the answer
 - when you don’t know the answer
- when to “switch gears” in the classroom and how to effectively do it
- how different learning styles can be supported by a variety of teaching techniques
- how to encourage students
- what the typical student expectations are in CSE courses (at UW)
- what the expectations of instructors, advisors, colleagues, and staff are on you
- what successful TAs in the past wished they had known when they first started

To Be Able To:

- not fear standing in front of an audience for 1 hour weekly
- lead an interactive discussion with the students
- effectively gauge the level of engagement of the audience
- recognize a problem (and know how to tackle it, including where to look for ideas and help)
- encourage students
- outline the learning objectives for the course you are teaching / TAing
- explain how what you teach in sections / office hours ties to the content from lecture, the course assignments and projects, and the overall learning objectives of the course
- try out new teaching techniques with confidence