

Shanna Tune

Sponsor: David Lomen

Course: Math 355

Being an undergraduate teaching assistant has been one of the most rewarding experiences. I've had to hold office hours every Thursday, but it was never boring. People brought in new questions every week and I was able to learn how to improve my explanations to help people understand the material. Before each test, I would hold reviews; at the reviews I would apply some of the teaching techniques I would gain through office hours. In both of these situations I was tested on my ability to re-teach the material as necessary. Another one of my responsibilities was to grade their weekly homework and on a few of the assignments I even got to help choose some of their assignments based upon where I felt I could have used more practice the prior semester.

Though it is not required of UTA's to run a class, I filled in for Dr. Lomen on a few occasions when he had an emergency and would not be able to attend the class. The first time teaching was highly nerve racking but very rewarding. Being interested in possibly going into the teaching field, it gave me an opportunity to see how I would do teaching material I was comfortable with. It has really challenged me to make sure people understand what I am teaching them and not just trying to help fill in the blanks in their knowledge.

Overall, I really enjoyed the opportunity to delve into an area of interest, while at the same time meet other students that share a similar interest and getting to know faculty and some of the grad students.