

When I first took Math 323 at the University of Arizona, the UTA for the class was an amazing resource and source of extra help during the class. Her effort was the reason that inspired me to try out the program too, in a sort of “pay it forward” gesture. Throughout my semester, I feel like I got to help and encourage many students about proofs and mathematics in general. The UTA program, overall, has been a rich and rewarding experience for me and I definitely plan to do it again.

At first, being in the position of a TA and grading work for a class that I can still recently remember taking was a surreal experience. It felt like I had recently done similar assignments, but now I am the one evaluating them. It installed a deep sense of confidence and pride in my own work seeing that I was capable of taking on this role. Also, the experience taught me how to organize and structure review sessions, lectures, etc. because I needed to pick up the skills as I went and take charge. However, as many others, I also still disliked having to grade the papers, mostly because proofs grading takes a lot of care and thought (i.e., distinguishing between a student that doesn't quite understand how to express their mathematical ideas and a student that is trying to fool you into thinking they understand the material).

Overall, I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to be an Undergraduate TA and I am absolutely going to keep going with it. I would recommend anyone who wants to get experience teaching students to give the UTA program a shot, especially those who are looking towards going to graduate school. My semester in this program has greatly improved my teaching abilities, confidence in my own work, and allowed me to, hopefully, touch the lives of other students and inspire them.