

My time as a UTA for Linear Algebra under Dr. Raymundo Navarrete was an incredible learning experience. I initially took the class from Dr. Jeremy Booher, and, although the class required an immense amount of work, it was my favorite class that semester. Near the end of the year, I received an application offer for a UTA position. Although, at the time of my application, I had very little experience with teacher's assistants, I intrinsically knew this was something I wanted to pursue.

My first weeks as a UTA were scary. Although I tutored at my community college throughout high school, I had no prior experience teaching classes or grading homework, and I found these tasks quite intimidating. I vividly remember my first presentation to the class. Standing in front of thirty students, I was certain the students could sense my terror and hear the rapid beat of my heart. However, as the semester moved on, this fear slowly dissipated. As I gained more confidence grading papers, helping students in the tutoring center, and teaching classes, I was able to relax into my responsibilities and enjoy my position.

Although this program taught me many valuable lessons, the most valuable was importance of communication. As a teacher or tutor, it does not matter how intelligent you are; students cannot read your mind. Both in the tutoring center and in the classroom, your ability to help students is only as good as your ability to communicate and present the material. My time as a UTA taught me that communication and the ability to articulate ideas is important inside and outside of the classroom, and it is something that I will continue to work on for the foreseeable future.

I would highly encourage anybody with an interest in mathematics to pursue this program. For me, this program provided new perspectives, insights, and an extraordinary understanding of the course I assisted. Although it required a substantial amount of work, my time as a UTA was an amazing experience, and I would recommend it to any motivated student.