

Principles for Good Practice as an ESF Graduate Assistant

1. **Communication:** Encourage and facilitate open lines of communication among your faculty supervisor, other GAs, students, and yourself. Provide ample opportunities for questions and discussion. Be aware of your unique position between faculty and students and use compassion in dealing with student issues.
 2. **Effective Instruction:** Be sensitive to the various learning styles and needs of students relative to the teaching techniques employed by you and your faculty supervisor. Maintain within yourself and instill within your students an attitude of enthusiasm for the subject material and the process of learning.
 3. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Provide students with constructive feedback and graded material in a timely manner. Balance collective and individual in feedback and grading procedures. Teaching is only a part of the dynamic teaching/learning process - remember to collect and provide regular and ongoing assessment and feedback in your classes, recitations, labs, studios; and field experiences.
 4. **Challenge:** Set high goals for yourself and your students. Strive for creative thinking, critical thinking, questioning, and high achievement.
 5. **Professionalism:** Maintain a professional demeanor regarding all aspects of your graduate assistant responsibilities including promptness, courteousness, confidentiality, and fairness. Develop appropriate relationships with students and faculty.
 6. **Limits:** Know your professional limits and when to stop yourself at the edge of your responsibilities, time commitments, rights, knowledge, and skills. Know where to refer students once you reach those limits.
 7. **Critical Reflection:** Actively reflect on your teaching successes and failures. Actively seek and be receptive to student and faculty critiques.
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