

UTA Reflection
Fall 2020
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Participating in the UTA program was an amazing, rewarding opportunity that allowed me to further develop confidence in my teaching and professional skills. I remember at the end of the Spring 2020 semester when I was first applying to the program thinking “is this something that I really want to do?”. I went back and forth on whether to apply to be a UTA for the Fall of 2020 (which was to be one of the busiest semesters of my life). I ended up deciding that it was too good of an opportunity to miss, so I scrambled to complete the application at the very last minute. And now here I am, completing my first semester as a UTA for Math 355 under the mentorship of Dr. Alex Farrell.

My experience in the program included attending colloquium, holding office hours, grading homework, meeting with students outside of class, and even occasionally leading lectures. Each of these involvements played a piece in strengthening my passion for math and teaching. However, my most significant experience was in meeting students outside of class to discuss research and future plans. In my time as a UTA, I was able to establish close, professional relationships with my students, and they sought me out for more than just mathematics help. They would ask to meet one-on-one to talk about how to get involved in research, job opportunities, and questions about how to apply to graduate school. This was my most valuable experience as a UTA because I was able to help students with more than just math and play a part in setting them up for their future.

Overall, the UTA program has been an important experience in my time as an undergraduate. It gave me the resources and platform to grow as an educator as well as a mentor.