

## UTA Program Final Reflection

Given how much I enjoyed participating in an undergraduate teaching assistantship last semester, I decided to reapply for spring. I was fortunate enough to be provided with the opportunity to be a part of the program once again. This time I found myself working with Dr. Michael Gilbert and his sections of Math 223, or Vector Calculus.

Having already experienced one semester of assisting with a math course, I was able to approach this semester's work with a great deal more confidence. While my primary concern last semester was learning how to do things like grade assignments, lead study sessions, and tutor for the first time, this time I already had some experience with those activities. As a result, I was able to think about skills that I needed to grow and work with the intent of doing just that. I believe that the area where I saw the most improvement was working directly with students: tutoring, office hours, and the like. In the past, I have sometimes found myself feeling intimidated by such tasks, but my practice this semester allowed me to move past that tendency and be a much more effective communicator. Remarkably enough, I soon started getting "regulars" in my tutoring and office hours. It was exciting to me that I was able to help people understand challenging mathematical ideas and do it well enough that they would come back to listen to me again.

Aside from tutoring and running review sessions, my main task for this semester was grading. While perhaps not the most inherently interesting job, it is still very important to know how to evaluate homework and quiz submissions well. This semester's grading process was markedly different from my experience last semester in that it was mostly up to me to decide how to score the assignments. To be honest, this made me very uncomfortable at first because I was not confident in my ability to make the right decisions about such things. By the end of the semester, though, I was able to grade much more efficiently and give better feedback than I could before.

I would like to thank Dr. Jones and Dr. Duron for leading the program this semester and Dr. Gilbert for being a fantastic mentor and helping me to develop my teaching skills. Just as I said after last semester, I believe that taking part in this program has allowed me to learn much about the process of mathematics education in general as well as how to invent my own specific approach to it.