

## UTA Program Reflection Spring 2022

This was my first semester participating in the UTA Program, and I very much enjoyed my experience. Not only were the program coordinators extremely supportive and passionate about the program, but I also had a fantastic mentor who gave me the opportunity to engage directly with students every class period. This was definitely my favorite part of the program.

I was a teaching assistant for DATA 363, Introduction to Statistical Methods, where students actively work on group activities together in each class. I thoroughly enjoyed walking around the classroom and helping students with any confusions that they might have had. I was able to make great connections with students who needed extra help in office hours. Also, I created my own problem set to review for the first midterm and hosted review sessions for students for both exams. This is the part of my teaching assistantship that I loved the most. I was able to apply my love for statistics, teaching, and helping students in general in a real context, and it felt like I was actually teaching a class. I was very happy to hear that students found these review sessions to be helpful; these were the moments where my passion for teaching and working with students became significantly more profound, and I could not be more appreciative of the experience.

The UTA seminar every week was also great. Getting to learn more about LaTeX, Beamer, and hearing from a graduate student panel in mathematics and statistics were incredibly useful. There was only one thing about the program, however, that I wasn't terribly fond of,

which were the weekly calculus tutoring sessions. It had been such a long time since I had taken any calculus course, so being unprepared for students' questions every week caused me to feel overwhelmed and stressed. I would have preferred to stay comfortable in tutoring only for the class that I was a teaching assistant for, but this was definitely a learning experience for me.

Overall, I would highly recommend the UTA Program to anyone who has a passion for teaching mathematics or statistics, as the program presents an amazing opportunity to hone these skills in a real-world context. Thank you so much to Dr. Duron and Dr. Peca-Medlin for working so hard on this program and being such a great support system for every student!