

Department of Economics

Policies Regarding Graduate Student Instructors and Other Teaching Assistants

- Graduate student instructors and other teaching assistants (TAs) represent Iowa State University and the Department of Economics. As such, they should conduct themselves in a professional manner in all aspects of the job and teach in accordance with the [Principles of Community](#).
- Instructors are expected to be prepared for each class, well versed in the subject matter, and to deliver material using appropriate language and behavior.
- Stand-alone teaching assignments are made by the departmental Teaching Coordinator. Factors considered in these assignments may include previous teaching or teaching assistant performance, overall academic performance, specialties in certain topics, progress in research, and input from the Principles Coordinator and other faculty.
- TAs assigned to stand-alone teaching will use a syllabus provided by the department. Any substantive changes to the syllabus or course content must receive prior approval from the Principles Coordinator for Econ 101/102 courses, or from the Teaching Coordinator otherwise.
- Stand-alone teaching will be reviewed by the Principles Coordinator or Teaching Coordinator on a regular basis. This review may include, for example, observations during class, review of on-line material, and feedback from students enrolled in the course. Feedback will be provided to the instructor.
- Stand-alone instructors and other TAs should closely follow the textbook material whenever a textbook is a primary resource for the course. They should present material to students in a manner that supports and is consistent with the instructor and textbook when interacting with students in the class or help room.
- A TA should not behave in a way that might be interpreted as disparaging to a faculty member, the department, or university. Reasonable differences of opinion might arise, but the remedy is to discuss issues with the faculty member, Principles Coordinator, Teaching Coordinator, or ultimately the Chair of the department.
- Graduate students who do not adhere to these policies are subject to appropriate consequences, which may include removal from teaching assignments.