

Finding Advanced Teaching Opportunities Within Yale

There are a number of ways to find additional teaching experience at Yale, and many of these positions can give you the opportunity to develop advanced teaching skills such as lecturing and course design.

Find teaching opportunities in related departments

If your department has limited TF positions available, or the positions are focused more on grading than on teaching, try looking for TF or PTAI positions in other departments. Check the Teaching Fellows Program Information Board, send your CV to registrars or DGSs in related departments, or send your CV to Howard el-Yasin at howard.el-yasin@yale.edu in the Teaching Fellows Program office who may be able to suggest an appropriate opening.

<http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/academics/fellows.html>

Lecturing within a Yale course

Ask your advisor or other professors for the opportunity to give a lecture, either during the normal academic term or during summer session. When making the request, have ideas prepared for what you might lecture on and why this would be an important experience for your teaching development. Ask for feedback that you can use to improve your teaching as well as for formal evaluations for your teaching portfolio. Additionally, assisting a professor who is developing a new course or updating lectures for an existing course can be a good apprenticeship experience.

Teach a summer course

Graduate students are eligible to teach a summer course if they have passed qualifying exams, finished at least the third year of study, and have taught as a TF at least once. Courses in the summer session are typically introductory level although some advanced classes are offered. The application process goes through individual departments, and graduate students should find a faculty member to sponsor them both for the application process and in teaching.

<http://www.yale.edu/summer/faculty/index.htm>

Teaching a Yale seminar

The Yale residential college seminar program allows advanced graduate students to apply to lead a seminar. This program gives the graduate student the opportunity to conceptualize, plan, and lead a seminar with a small class size.

<http://www.yale.edu/collegeseminar/teach.html>

Mentor or tutor a student

There are a number of ways to gain teaching-related experience even when it is not possible to be working as a teaching fellow or leading a class. Ask your advisor for opportunities to mentor an undergraduate, summer student, or beginning graduate student. Such mentoring is hands-on teaching, and while there might not be a chalkboard involved, mentoring will help develop communication skills and your ability to explain

complex information and will help you practice setting goals and expectations for students.

Work on your teaching through Graduate Teaching Center programs
The GTC offers mini courses for beginning teachers on the fundamentals of teaching that are designed specifically for a variety of different disciplines. Advanced workshops and seminar offerings vary by year and include such topics as preparing a lecture, working with student writing, and teaching to diverse learning styles. A group has also formed to practice lecture development and delivery skills; contact Jennifer Frederick jennifer.frederick@yale.edu for more information. Individual consultation services are also offered by GTC staff members, who work with TFs to identify goals, perform a classroom observation, and discuss ways to improve teaching effectiveness. Finally, consider working for the GTC as a way to surround yourself with others interested in teaching and actively improve your teaching.

<http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/teaching/>