

Funding. The department places a very high priority on providing support for its Ph.D. students. Subject to University finances we provide five years of funding for all Ph.D. students who enter with financial support, and continue to make satisfactory progress. We have provided at least a sixth year of funding to all who needed it for many years, and we aim to continue to do so. In particular, we recognize that students whose interdisciplinary work requires a year of study in another department often require extended support. The normal expectation is that students will graduate within six years, but we recognize that there are many reasons that a PhD may take longer. 50% FTE Teaching Assistantships at the current union negotiated minimum rate are the most common form of funding, but our students regularly receive other awards, of varying amounts, and from various sources.

Assignments. The TA assignment process starts by sending lists of anticipated courses to all eligible graduate students to solicit their preferences. Assignments to specific courses are then made by the chair in consultation with the DGS, DUS, Chair of the Department's Teaching Committee and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Student preferences as well as other factors (listed below) are considered in making assignments. The assignment process is usually done in two stages with TA-taught classes (and TAs for 200-level classes) done earlier to allow time for preparation, and assignments of TAs to faculty taught courses coming later.

Factors considered. The quality of a graduate student's teaching and academic performance, as demonstrated by faculty and student evaluations. Previous experience teaching a course, or demonstrated knowledge of the material. Professional development. For students past the sixth year, students who have been in the program fewer years have higher priority.