

# Graduate Teaching Assistant Survey

Rank each of the following items from the UM Physics Department **TA ORIENTATION** based on how useful you think they were to your teaching preparation.

0 = didn't participate	1 = waste of time	2 = somewhat useless	3 = neutral	4 = somewhat useful	5 = useful	
1. Presentation and discussion about TA duties	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. Introduction to the UM Model for Introductory Courses	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. Cooperative Group Problem Solving activities:						
a. Selected Readings about problem solving ( <i>Martinez</i> ) and CPS ( <i>Heller<sup>2</sup></i> )	0	1	2	3	4	5
b. Reading from Instructor's Handbook (coaching student groups, forming groups, maintaining well-functioning groups)	0	1	2	3	4	5
c. Discussion about positive & negative aspects of cooperative groups	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. Differences in expert-novice problem solving (solving GWE problem and Cowboy Bob problem)	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. Teaching a Lab Session:						
a. Analyzing sample students' Warm-up questions (Lab Preparation activity)	0	1	2	3	4	5
b. Reading from the Instructor's Handbook: overview of teaching a lab session, detailed advice, & preparation	0	1	2	3	4	5
c. Demonstration of teaching a lab session by an experienced TA	0	1	2	3	4	5
d. Dress rehearsal of a laboratory session	0	1	2	3	4	5
e. Practice using technology and lab equipment (LabVIEW motion software, installing a camera, etc.)	0	1	2	3	4	5
6. Analyzing videotaped lab sessions	0	1	2	3	4	5
7. Teaching a Discussion Session:						
a. Demonstration of teaching a discussion session by an experienced TA	0	1	2	3	4	5
b. Reading from the Instructor's Handbook: overview of teaching a discussion session, detailed advice, & preparation	0	1	2	3	4	5
c. Designing a problem-solving framework for students (answer sheet)	0	1	2	3	4	5
d. Activity: Discussion preparation & coaching during a discussion session (sample partial student solutions)	0	1	2	3	4	5
e. Activity: Leading an end-of-class discussion (complete student solutions)	0	1	2	3	4	5
8. Preparation for the first lab & discussion sessions (reading)	0	1	2	3	4	5
9. Case studies about sexual harassment, diversity, and cheating issues	0	1	2	3	4	5
10. Additional Materials:						
a. Readings from <i>Teaching Physics with the Physics Suite</i> book by Edward Redish	0	1	2	3	4	5
b. Reading from Instructor's Handbook about "Other Teaching Resources"	0	1	2	3	4	5

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11. Please comment about the activities, homework, and reading assignments during TA Orientation. What did you like or dislike about them? Was the workload reasonable, or unreasonable?

12. Was there anything that you expected to do or talk about, but it was not addressed during the orientation?

13. Please comment about each of the following speakers:

Jennifer Engler, University Counseling & Consulting Services –

Jan Morse, Ombudsman's Office –

Naomi Scheman, Research Ethics -

14. Comments about the TA Orientation (good and bad) and suggestions for improvement: